



**Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
MINISTRY OF FINANCE**

15th April, 2016

MEDIA RELEASE

**Minister of Finance to head Trinidad and Tobago Delegation
in Washington D.C., U.S.A.**

The Honourable Colm Imbert, Minister of Finance, will head a Trinidad and Tobago delegation at the following meetings, being held in Washington D.C., U.S.A., from **15th to 17th April, 2016**:-

- 1) The 2016 Spring Meeting of the Inter-Governmental Group of Twenty-Four on International Monetary Affairs and Development (G-24);
- 2) The Spring Meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank Group (WB);
- 3) Bi-lateral meetings with officials of the IMF and the WB.

The delegation comprises of Dr. Alvin Hilaire, **the Governor of the Central Bank**; Mr. Maurice Suite, **Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance**; Mr. Ewart Williams,, **Advisor to the Minister of Finance**; Mr. Joel Jack, **Secretary of Finance and Enterprise Development, T.H.A.**; as well as other **senior members of staff of the Ministry of Finance and the T.H.A.; Senior Advisors to the Executive Directors of the WB and the IMF.**

The G-24, a chapter of the Group of 77, was established in 1971 to coordinate the positions of developing countries on international monetary and development finance issues and to ensure that their interests were adequately represented in negotiations on international monetary matters.

The Spring Meeting of the G-24, will examine the current world economic situation, determine the position of developing countries on monetary and development finance issues and provide a unified voice for developing countries on the issues to be examined and discussed at the *2016 Spring Meeting of the IMF and WB Group*.

The *2016 Spring Meeting of the IMF and WB Group* will examine and discuss issues of relevance to developed and developing countries, including those related to:

- Growth in the era of low commodity prices;
- Restoring the potential of landscapes for poverty reduction;
- Fortifying the global financial safety net;
- Strengthening the international tax system;
- The evolving role of China in the global economy;
- Challenges and opportunities in emerging markets.

In addition to the aforementioned meetings, the Minister and his delegation propose to meet with technical staff of the IMF and WB to discuss matters, as it relates to Trinidad and Tobago, including the following:

- Review of the taxation system with a view to enhancing revenue and non-energy growth;
- Review of the foreign exchange regime operations in the current economic environment;
- Review of the operation and management of the Heritage and Stabilization Fund ;
- Review of expenditure related to social programmes with a view to enhancing efficiency, effectiveness and rationalisation of the various programmes.

The Delegation will also meet with various private sector institutions including rating agencies.