



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

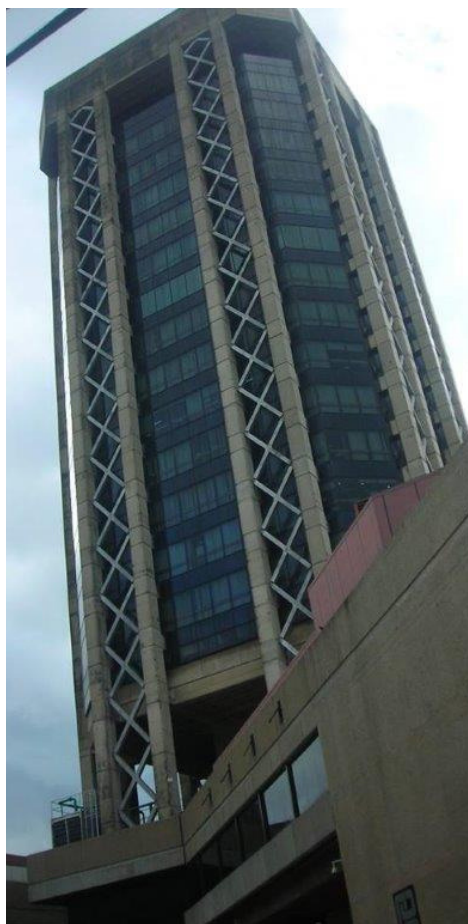
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

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Our Vision Statement

The Ministry of Finance is a world class organisation that implements balanced macro-economic fiscal policies and initiatives, that facilitate the expansion and diversification of the economy, ensures fiscal sustainability; and that is responsive to the global environment.

Our Mission Statement

To efficiently and effectively manage the economy of Trinidad and Tobago through the development and implementation of innovative policies to the benefit of all citizens.

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@MoFTT

VIRTUAL CURRENCIES AND THE ASSOCIATED RISKS

By: The Corporate Communications Unit

The emerging international trend of what is termed 'Digital/Virtual Currencies' has not gone unnoticed by the Financial Regulatory Bodies in Trinidad and Tobago and the Ministry of Finance. Locally, an 'Initial Coin Offering (ICO)' was recently launched by an international organisation, in the trade of virtual currencies.

But what are virtual currencies (VCs)? The European Banking Authority (EBA), described VCs as 'digital representation of value that is neither issued nor guaranteed by a central bank or public authority and does not have the legal status of currency or money'. The EBA further stated, that 'VCs are highly risky, generally not backed by any tangible assets and unregulated under EU law, and do not, therefore, offer any legal protection to consumers'.

As in Europe, hereto in Trinidad and Tobago, the local regulatory bodies and the Ministry of Finance are not associated with, nor have they endorsed any organisation in the 'trading of virtual currencies' or the issue of an Initial Coin Offering.

The Regulatory Body for investments in Trinidad and Tobago, The Securities and Exchange Commission (The Commission), recently stated, **'The Commission, has not as of this date approved any Initial Coin Offering. The ongoing offerings are unregulated and speculative investments, with considerable risk to the investor'**. In its statement, the Commission further identified risks of:

1) **Heightened potential for fraud** – the fact that the products and those selling them may in some cases not be subject to regulation, [may] expose the investors to fraud;



2) **Cross-border distribution risks** – the issuer may be operating the ICO from outside of the investor's jurisdiction, therefore, following the money in the event of a collapse of the ICO as well as recovering invested funds, may prove extremely difficult [for the investor];

3) **Information asymmetry** – investors may not be able to understand the risks, costs and expired returns... arising from their investment;

4) **Liquidity risks** – In some jurisdictions, cryptocurrency exchanges may also be unregulated and operate without oversight. Thus leaving investors vulnerable to dramatic price changes and the possibility that they may not be able to exit their holdings (funds invested).

The new BarterCoin Exchange Ltd. operating locally, has not received the approval of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Ministry of Finance therefore advises members of the public to exercise caution when engaging in **any form of investment** and when in doubt, seek the advice of the Regulatory Bodies – The Securities and Exchange Commission and/or the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago.



E-TAX SERVICES FILING TAX RETURNS ON-LINE

By: The Inland Revenue Division

With the upgrade of its Integrated Tax Processing System in 2014, the Inland Revenue Division launched its new E-Tax Online Services Portal which allows taxpayers to manage their tax accounts online. The new E-Tax Service offers both logged-in Services, which requires you to be registered with a TTConnect ID number, as well as non-logged-in Services which does not require a TTConnect ID number.

E-Tax allows persons to view their personal accounts, file returns, view tax balances, check on refunds, correspond with the Inland Revenue Division and a host of other tasks. In addition to viewing your personal accounts, you can also authorize other persons such as Accountants and Tax Practitioners to access your account.

The new E-Tax is safe, easy, and convenient and can be easily accessed at <https://etax.ird.gov.tt> in any standard web browser. One of the new and exciting major benefits of the E-Tax Services offered, is the ability to file your tax returns on-line.



Filing your tax return on-line is a secure, easy, convenient and reliable way to file your tax returns, which ensures faster processing times and allows you to avoid any postal delays.

Once your tax return is submitted, you will receive an acknowledgment of the tax return filed. With the availability of E-Tax access 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, you can easily track the progress of your tax return at every stage throughout its processing.

Ministry of Finance Retirees for the Month of February '18



Central Tenders Board
Ms. Jenepha Khan

Custom and Excise Division
Mr. Glen K. Singh

Investment Division
Ms. Shaneza Mohammed

Treasury Division
Mr. Rumaldo Noreiga
Mr. Nirmal Seemungal

Inland Revenue Division
Mr. Nayak Ramdahin
Mr. Kishanchand Nandlal
Ms. Cheryll Foster



"UPENDO" - THE YEAR OF LOVE

By: The Corporate Communications Unit

The Ministry of Finance on Thursday 8th February, 2018, held its very first Carnival 'Flag and Mad Hatter Competitions' and Cooler lime, under the theme 'UPENDO - The Year Of Love', with the main objective of fostering camaraderie amongst staff in a fun filled environment.

The carnival event which was held in the Recreation Room of the Ministry's Head Office featured creative flag and hat displays from various Units of the Ministry. Other activities included a question and answer segment, ring toss and musical chairs, providing for a fun filled evening for those in attendance.

For this event, the Ministry's Executive Team demonstrated their love for staff by sponsoring the refreshments and some prizes for staff.

Kudos to the Budget Division (BD), the Office of the Supervisor of Insolvency (OSI), the Human Resource Management Unit (HRM) / General Administration Unit (GA) for the amazing job with their presentations. There is no doubt that the staff of the Ministry of Finance are not only hard working, but creative and fun individuals.



Team Agenda, from the Office of the Supervisor of Insolvency, collects their 1st place prize from Ms. Savitree Seepersad, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance

Here are the results:

Flag Festival Competition

1st Place: Budget Magicians - Budget Division

2nd Place: Agenda - Office of the Supervisor of Insolvency

3rd Place: Most Vibes - Human Resource Management Unit and General Administration Unit

Mad Hatter Competition

1st Place: Agenda - Office of the Supervisor of Insolvency

2nd Place: Budget Magicians - Budget Division



The Budget Magicians (Budget Division) gets ready to display their winning flag.



Team Most Vibes (Human Resource Management Unit and General Administration Unit)



YOUR LIFE, YOUR SAFETY, YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!

By: The Corporate Communications Unit

As we leave our homes daily, whether for work, shopping or for our much needed exercise, simple precautions can assist us in having a safe and enjoyable time outdoors.

1. Be aware of your surroundings. First, be familiar with your surroundings. This would help us in identifying things that are out of the ordinary that can be at risk to you or others.

2. Don't be predictable. Take a different route to work. Where possible, change your departure and arrival times. Go shopping on a different day or even go to a different store.

3. Avoid going out alone as much as possible. Stay away from dark and lonely streets, open plots of land, and abandoned buildings. Don't accept lifts or rides from persons you don't know.

4. If you feel like you are being followed, drive to the nearest police station, gas station or even an open business place. Do not drive home until you are completely sure you are alone.

5. If you are attacked, noise is your most immediate defense. Not only will sound attract attention to you and make your location known but it may also cause the would-be attacker to flee. If the assailant demands your purse/wallet, keys or money, give it to him or her. Don't risk your life.

While these tips can be helpful, they do not guarantee your safety. Immediately contact the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) if you detect any suspicious behaviour.

Emergency Numbers



Emergency 911



Police 999



Ambulance 811



Crime Stoppers 800-TIPS (8477)



Fire 990



Anti-Crime Hotline 555



ODPM 800-ODPM (6376)

Info. sourced from:- <http://www.ttps.gov.tt/Safety-Tips/Putting-Security-First>
and <https://www.isba.org/committees/governmentlawyers/newsletter/2013/06/becomingmoreawareafewtipsonkeeping>



GLOBAL FORUM TALKS

By: The Corporate Communications Unit

On February 23, 2018, the Hon. Colm Imbert, Minister of Finance, met with Mr. Donal Godfrey and Ms. Kaelen Onuska, representatives of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes. Also present at the meeting were: Senator the Hon. Allyson West, Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Far left) and the Hon. Faris Al Rawi, Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago (Far right).



The Global Forum representatives also

met with other stakeholders, including representatives of the Parliament and other government officials.

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

By: The Corporate Communications Unit



The United Nation's (UN) theme for International Women's Day (IWD), **8 March 2018**, is **"Time is Now: Rural and urban activists transforming women's lives"**.

As stated on the UN's Women website, "IWD 2018 is an opportunity to empower women in all settings, rural and urban, and celebrate the activists who are working relentlessly to claim women's rights and realize their full potential."

Let's join UN Women and the rest of the World in celebrating Women!

The Office of the Prime Minister (Gender and Child Affairs), in collaboration with the InterClub of Trinidad and Tobago, will join the national community in celebration, by hosting a Panel Discussion "Promotion of Gender Equality through the Adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals" on March 6th 2018. For further details, please contact the Ministry directly at 627-1163 exts. 2068 or 2063.



INTERACTING WITH INDIVIDUALS WITH DOWN SYNDROME

By: The Corporate Communications Unit

World Down Syndrome day is observed on **March 21st** every year.

As a member of staff, you may have a family member, friend or know of someone with this condition. But how much do you know about Down Syndrome?

Down Syndrome, also known as Trisomy 21, is a genetic condition that typically causes some level of learning disability and certain physical characteristics.

With help and support, most people with Down Syndrome are able to have healthy, active and more independent lives. With World Down Syndrome Day fast approaching on March 21st, here are a few gentle reminders when interacting with individuals with Down Syndrome.

1. Down Syndrome is not an illness or a disease, it is a developmental disability. You cannot "catch it" so there is no need to treat someone affected, unkindly. Be friendly.

2. Remember that individuals with Down Syndrome are just that; individuals! They are not "Downs" or "Down Syndrome children/adults." They are people first, and should be addressed accordingly.

3. Don't talk to someone with Down Syndrome like they don't understand you. Sometimes it may take longer to process what you are saying. Give some processing time and wait for a response, you probably won't be sorry.

4. It is sometimes difficult for someone with Down Syndrome to follow multiple directions at once. Please be clear and concise! It also pays to "show", rather than "tell". Visuals or bulleted-lists work well.

5. Hold high expectations and provide encouragement. Someone with Down Syndrome can achieve just about anything they set their mind to! Being positive with them will help encourage success.

6. Just like anyone else, persons with Down Syndrome wants to be included. Talk to them and include them. Get to know them as a person. You'll be glad you did.

Although there's no "cure" for Down Syndrome, there's support available to help children and adults with the condition to lead healthy, fulfilling lives. For further information, you can contact the Trinidad and Tobago Down Syndrome Family Network at dsfamilynetwork@gmail.com or (868)746-1618; (868)779-1481; (868)342-4980.

Info. sourced from:- <https://www.kcdsg.org/files/content/Tips%20for%20Working%20with%20Individuals%20w%20DS.pdf>,
and <http://cdss.ca/blog/pauls-blog/working-people-syndrome-things-know/>



The banner features a stylized logo of a person with arms raised in blue and green. To the right of the logo, the text 'DOWN SYNDROME FAMILY NETWORK' is displayed in blue. Further right, contact information is provided: 'For more info call: Marina Hyde-O'Brien 792-3056 or 746-1618 /499-9341', followed by social media links for Facebook and the website, and an email address. Below this, the address '35 Methuen Street, Woodbrook, Port of Spain' and office hours 'Office Hours: 9:00am - 2:00pm, Tuesdays Only' are listed. At the bottom, the words 'DONATE • VOLUNTEER • ADVOCATE' are written in large blue letters.

DOWN SYNDROME FAMILY NETWORK

For more info call: Marina Hyde-O'Brien 792-3056 or 746-1618 /499-9341

- www.facebook.com/dsfamilynetwork • www.dsfamilynetwork.org
- E-mail: dsfamilynetwork@gmail.com
- 35 Methuen Street, Woodbrook, Port of Spain
- Office Hours: 9:00am - 2:00pm, Tuesdays Only

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DOMESTIC TOURISM AND YOU

By: The Corporate Communications Unit

Rest...Relax...breath...Enjoy!

We all live busy lives. But when last have you visited a local tourist site for some much needed relaxation? Have you ever been to the Salt Water pond on Chacachacare Island? Or when last have you been to the Wild Fowl Trust? There are many enjoyable attractions and places of interest in T&T

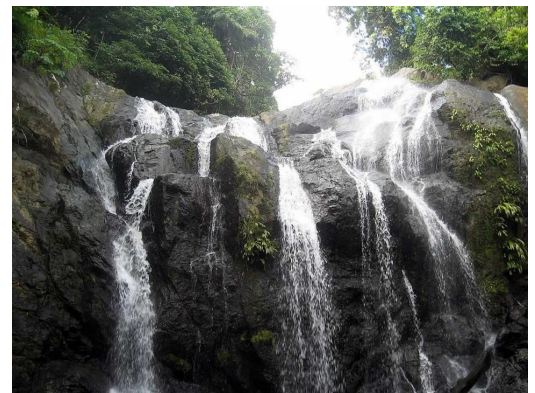
Let's remind you of some.



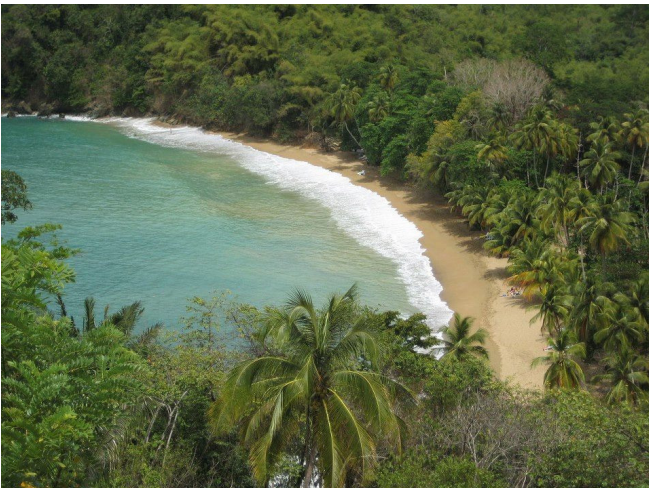
Salt pond and Light House, Chacachacare Island



Galera Point (The Toco Light House)



Argyle Waterfalls, Tobago



Englishman's Bay, Tobago



Pointe-A-Pierre Wild Fowl Trust

Let's get to know our country, support and boost local businesses and save foreign exchange. So "rev up" those engines, hire a taxi, PTSC bus, book a flight, pack those picnic baskets or shop at a village "parlour" or food stall and have some fun!

