



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

# FINANCE NEWS

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## READY. SET. SCAN!

By: The Corporate Communications Unit

The Honourable Colm Imbert, Minister of Finance took great pride in officially launching two of four mobile container scanners (which were donated by the US Government) at the Port of Point Lisas on April 18th, 2018. The other two scanners will be deployed at the Port of Port of Spain at a later date.

Minister Imbert personally described the deployment of the scanners as **“a reflection of the long- standing, well-established and forward-moving partnership between the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.”** Indeed, the launch marked a new era of trade facilitation and border security for Trinidad and Tobago.

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Minister Imbert with other Ministers of Government, Ag. Comptroller of Customs & Excise, Representatives of the U.S. Embassy & Chairman of PLIPDECO

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## READY. SET. SCAN!

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Here is a summary of the main benefits as described by Minister Imbert in his feature address at the launch:

#### 1. Border protection and Security.

Violent crime has a negative effect on T&T's landscape and mobile scanning is focused on combatting the importation of all contraband, specifically narcotics, illegal firearms and ammunition.

**2. Trade facilitation.** With continuous growth in international trade, there was an urgent need for T&T to increase its border capacity as well. The scanning process takes between 2 and 7 minutes! Not only does mobile scanning allow for faster delivery but it also allows for

easier inspection and reduces the manpower requirement in determining the contents of containers.

**3. Increased Revenue Collection.** The launch of these scanners will certainly mitigate duty and tax fraud and detect undeclared cargo for the collection of duties at the Point Lisas Port.



Container being scanned during a demonstration at the Port of Point Lisas on April 18th 2018.

## MANUFACTURERS TO ACCESS USD THROUGH EXIMBANK

By: The Corporate Communications Unit



**Empowering exporters for the future**

During the 2018 National Budget presentation, the Honourable Colm Imbert, Minister of Finance, proposed the implementation of a US\$100 million facility to be made available for manufacturers, through the Export Import Bank (EXIMBANK), to alleviate the foreign exchange constraints.

This new facility aims to provide foreign exchange access to manufacturers for the purchase of raw materials and other essential inputs for manufacturing.

The facility will be available to "approved" manufacturers and manufacturers who hope to access these funds must be in the business of export. The EXIMBANK guidelines will be published in daily newspapers very soon.

The EXIMBANK has since been granted their licence from the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago (CBTT) to trade foreign exchange and the official launch of this service will be held on Friday 4th May, 2018 at the Hyatt Regency Trinidad.



## U.S. EMBASSY PRESENTS MINISTER OF FINANCE WITH APPRECIATION PLAQUE

By: The U.S. Embassy in Trinidad and Tobago



U.S. Embassy Charge d'Affaires John McIntyre (right), presents the Honourable Colm Imbert, Minister of Finance, with a plaque of appreciation for his ongoing support of the Federal Air Marshal (FAM) program. The FAM program agreement was signed in 2017 and has grown in the number of missions to and from Trinidad and Tobago.

One key element of FAM is enhancing passenger safety, which is reflective of the ongoing co-operation between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the Federal Air Marshal Service and the U.S. Embassy Port of Spain.

## SHAPING THE SOCIETY WE SERVE

During the month of April, approximately 120 members of staff across the Ministry of Finance participated in a customer service training programme, themed **"Shaping the Society we serve"**.

The programme is an ongoing public service initiative aimed at improving the quality of service provided to citizens by Government Ministries and agencies, and is spearheaded by the Ministry of Public Administration and Communications. The main objective of the programme is to improve the skill sets of staff members i.e. in communicating, listening, the importance of being well-organised and solving problems.

A range of Ministry of Finance officers – administrative, clerical, manipulative and technical – will benefit from this intensive customer service training. Officers who completed the training to date are better equipped to:

- Understand the critical patterns present in the encounter between the citizen and a member of the Public Service; and
- Manage customer encounters so as to ensure a rewarding experience for all participants.

By: The Corporate Communications Unit



A cross section of one of the Customer Service classes held at the Ministry of Finance in April 2018.

Mr. Zachary Ragbir from our Treasury Division had this to say about the training:

*"The Customer Service Training was indeed beneficial to me. It gave me a deeper understanding of how I can assist citizens with a variety of personalities. At the end of the day, all participants - including myself - wanted to increase customer satisfaction in the public service and we understood the link between customer service and generating more revenue."*



## SAFETY FIRST!

By: The Corporate Communications Unit

We, the staff of the Ministry of Finance, should have seen it coming. After all, it was Occupational Safety and Health at Work Week and the Intranet Portal was flooded with Safety Posters. Nonetheless, the Emergency Evacuation Drill happened at 10:00 A.M. on April 26th 2018 - as it should have - unexpectedly. The same way an emergency would have happened. Yes. Unexpectedly.

The Ministry of Finance continues to promote safe practices at work and aims to keep all staff abreast of emergency procedures. **Staff safety is always first!**



Fire Wardens ensuring that all staff are accounted for at the muster point.



A cross section of staff as they re-enter the building with guidance from safety wardens and MoF security.

## MINISTRY HONOURS ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS

By: The Corporate Communications Unit



Minister Imbert poses with his Secretary, Wendy-Ann Reyes,

In commemoration of Administrative Professionals Week, (April 23rd to 29th 2018) the Honourable Colm Imbert, Minister of Finance and Mr. Vishnu Dhanpaul, Permanent Secretary presented tokens to their assistants, secretaries and receptionists at an informal and light-hearted luncheon on April 27th 2018.

Both Minister and Permanent Secretary thanked everyone present for their hard work commitment to their jobs.



Executive Secretary to the Permanent Secretary, Ms. Sandra Spence smiles after receiving her rose.

