



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

April 16th, 2025

For immediate release

MEDIA RELEASE

**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between
Ministry of Finance and the Office of International Affairs, US Border Protection**

On Wednesday 16th April, 2025 the Ministry of Finance (MOF) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). The MOU will provide the Customs and Excise Division (C&ED) with the relevant technical assistance, training and transformative initiatives to further strengthen the C&ED overall operations and its compliance efforts.

Present at the signing ceremony were the Minister of Finance, Vishnu Dhanpaul and the Chargé d’Affaires at the U.S. Embassy Port of Spain, Dr. Jenifer Neidhart de Ortiz, along with senior officials from both the MOF, US Embassy and C&ED.

Finance Minister, Vishnu Dhanpaul said, “The Ministry welcomes the continued partnership with the CBP, as the agency over the years has always provided the Customs and Excise Division with the necessary resources required to protect our nation’s borders. The MOU further strengthens the excellent relationship between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the United States of America. We express our sincerest gratitude for the opportunity to again work alongside each other, and the tremendous benefits to be derived from such a collaboration”.

Chargé d’Affaires Neidhart de Ortiz said, “This agreement formalizes our common commitment to address the challenges of transnational criminal activity which threatens our shared values and interests, making both of our countries more secure, and provides additional security for the whole Caribbean region.”

Mrs. Yasmin Harris, Comptroller of Customs and Excise Division (C&ED) said, “We are pleased to continue this relationship with the US Customs and Border Protection. We appreciate their continued support in the provision of training and other initiatives to strengthen our enforcement and border protection efforts.”

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