Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Finance

For immediate release

July 30, 2026

MEDIA RELEASE

Applicable Taxes on Hybrid and Mild Hybrid Vehicles

The Honourable Minister of Finance is cognisant of concerns raised in the press and on social media regarding the Customs and Excise Division's classification of certain mild-hybrid vehicles and the resulting implications for their tax treatment, automotive dealers and consumers. The Classification Ruling was issued in General Order No. 24 of 2026, dated July 22, 2026.

In keeping with the Government's commitment to transparent and constructive stakeholder engagement, the Honourable Minister of Finance convened meetings with the Trinidad and Tobago Automotive Dealers Association (TTADA) on July 27 and 30, 2026. The meetings brought together representatives of the Ministry of Finance and the Customs and Excise Division, including the Comptroller of Customs and Excise and the Treasury Solicitor, to consider the concerns raised by TTADA's membership regarding the Classification Ruling.

Following the discussions and a careful review of the applicable provisions, the Honourable Minister of Finance stated:

"*Having considered the matter, I am satisfied that the Classification Ruling contained in General Order No. 24 of 2026 is correct and consistent with the classification rules applied by the World Customs Organization.*

The important point for dealers and members of the public is that Legal Notice No. 247 of 2024 remains in force. Any new or used private hybrid vehicle that satisfies the criteria set out in the Legal Notice will continue to benefit from the existing customs duty relief. The Classification Ruling does not remove or alter the relief available to qualifying vehicles.

At no time did the Customs and Excise Division, or any other arm of the Ministry of Finance, advise that Legal Notice No. 247 of 2024 had been superseded or was no longer applicable".

(868) 612-9700 | (868) 612-1869 | comm.finance@gov.tt | www.finance.gov.tt

Level 18, Finance Building, Eric Williams Financial Complex, Independence Square,
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, W.I.

The Minister concluded by highlighting the importance of responsible public communication and the need for reporters and social media commentators to verify information properly before publication:

"It is regrettable that some reporters and social media commentators rushed to publish conclusions without first establishing the relevant facts. Unverified assumptions were presented as settled fact, creating unnecessary anxiety among dealers, consumers and the wider public.

The media has a vital role in our democracy and every right to scrutinise the decisions of public authorities. That right, however, carries an equally important responsibility to be accurate, fair and properly informed. Responsible reporting requires the applicable law to be examined, information to be independently verified and the relevant authorities to be afforded a reasonable opportunity to provide clarification before publication.

Speed must never take precedence over accuracy, and speculation must not be presented as fact. The public deserves information that is properly sourced, responsibly communicated and capable of withstanding scrutiny. I therefore urge reporters, social media commentators and members of the public to exercise due care and to be guided by the applicable law and verified information issued through official channels."

In closing, the Minister reaffirmed his commitment to continued engagement with all stakeholders, emphasising the importance of transparency, open dialogue and constructive collaboration in addressing matters of public interest.

- END -

The Honourable Davendranath Tancoo M.P.
Minister of Finance