

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## TTMA WELCOMES GOVERNMENT SME FUNDING FACILITY

The Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association (TTMA) welcomes the government's initiative of a new grant fund facility for small and medium sized businesses as announced by Minister Paula Gopee-Scoon, Minister of Trade and Industry at the launch of the New Export and Research Development Facility.

The President of the TTMA, Mr. Christopher Alcazar highlighted that "the government continues to deliver on its commitment to diversification of the economy via the manufacturing sector first with its EXIM bank initiative to assist manufacturers in accessing foreign exchange and now with this initiative focused on developing small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs)."

The TTMA is also committed to the development of SMEs with many resources dedicated to the development of these businesses in order to encourage them to become larger manufacturers, exporters and earners of foreign exchange. One such resource offered by the TTMA is ProNet. This goal of this programme is to make regional SMEs export ready and positioned to take advantage of the opportunities available under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) as well as other market opportunities.

Mr. Alcazar noted, "The manufacturing sector remains ready and willing to do its part to earn much needed foreign exchange for our country and continues to be encouraged by government initiatives such as these that continue to create an enabling environment for the sector."

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Kailash Jaikaransingh