

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2019

## TTMA on the Beverage Container Bill

The Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association (TTMA) commends the government on its intention to bring the Beverage Container Bill to Parliament in January 2020, as announced in the News this morning (Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September). The passing of this legislation has been pending for well over ten (10) years, and has actively been monitored by the TTMA and its membership during that time. While TTMA looks forward to the legislative agenda, as requested in our budgetary submission, the announcement of this upcoming legislation is welcome. The floods over the weekend, act as a reminder of the dire need of this legislation, to begin addressing the gross gap in our recycling and waste management of this country's garbage. The Beverage Container Bull is seen as part of a macro framework of good governance to place this country along a sustainable path, geared toward attaining our goal of reducing our carbon foot print in the shortest possible time.

In this regard, the TTMA supports the regulation of single use plastic and other materials that are harmful to the environment. However, it is imperative to note that consultation with affected stakeholders is a necessity when seeking to ensure the adoption of proper and sound legislation. The TTMA stands ready to assist with such consultation with its membership, which stands at over 525 companies presently. And so the Association looks forward to working and collaborating with the relevant authorities to sensitize and give input to this very important legislative policy, which we hope will lead to relevant laws that would come into effect in the shortest possible time.

We must not only appear to be the leaders in the Caribbean region in this regard, rather our actions MUST speak for themselves through intended results.

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