



## **TTMA STRENGTHENS TIES WITH THA**

President of TTMA, Ms. Tricia Coosal and CEO, Dr. Mahindra Ramesh Ramdeen, visited Tobago to pay a courtesy call on Chief Secretary Farley Augustine and his executive team on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2022. This was the first ever visit by a TTMA President to the Chief Secretary's office in Tobago. Talks between both parties included THA's greater participation at the upcoming Trade and Investment Convention (TIC) 2023. Chief Secretary Augustine noted that the format of Tobago's participation at TIC in 2022 was strategic, and similarly, 2023's participation would be planned with the objective of showcasing Tobago's entrepreneurship, culture and enterprises. Also discussed at the meeting were, an inward buyers' mission to Tobago in early 2023 and Tobago's entrepreneurs participating greater in TTMA's activities, including but not limited to, Trade Missions. Mr. Augustine has committed to have a number of Tobago Manufacturers participate in the Trade Mission to Grenada that is being hosted by the TTMA at the end of January 2023.

Ms. Coosal highlighted the importance of the visit stating, "Tobago has a strong history of entrepreneurship and it is our hope through continuous dialogue and exchange of ideas, the TTMA can assist these small and medium enterprises." Ms. Coosal further added, "Trinidad and Tobago is one entity and one state and so the Association is committed to growing the non-energy manufacturing sector in the country. Tobago's entrepreneurs are part of this growing process and the TTMA would do all that it can to assist these establishments to grow their operations, increase export and become net earners of foreign exchange."

The Chief Secretary indicated that there are many opportunities for business operators from Trinidad to partner with Tobago enterprises; he pointed to areas of investment for Construction, Health and Beauty and Tourism as sectors that are likely to show considerable growth in 2023. He also alluded to the possibility of contract manufacturing in the Food and Beverage Sector by Trinidadian companies, that wish to partner with Tobagonian operators, all in an effort to assist competencies and build economies of scale for SME operators in Tobago.

Ms. Coosal noted that these possibilities would be explored with her members and committed to continuing to build upon synergies created between both entities. Ms Coosal noted that "TTMA has created a space on its Board by its present executive to accommodate Tobago entrepreneurship."

-END-