



Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards(TTBS)

40 YEARS SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE THROUGH STANDARDS AND QUALITY

MESSAGE FROM

SENATOR THE HONOURABLE VASANT BARATH MINISTER OF TRADE, INDUSTRY, INVESTMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE ECONOMY

It is indeed a pleasure to congratulate the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) on their 40th anniversary! On this landmark occasion as we reflect on how TTBS has evolved, changing its focus to be relevant to the changing policies of Government over the years, one thing has remained constant and that is their commitment to ensuring a better quality of life for our citizens through standards and quality initiatives.

TTBS started out ensuring that our local goods were inferior to none and then as Trinidad and Tobago's economy liberalized, there was a greater emphasis on the inspection of imports. To foster these initiatives, TTBS sought and continues to avidly seek the participation of a wide range of stakeholders including Non-Governmental Organizations and consumer groups in the standardization process, with the objective of raising the quality of services offered to our nationals.

The global trading environment has radically changed over the past 40 years. To better meet these challenges, TTBS has accredited its testing laboratories in order to enhance the competitiveness of the local manufacturing industry and maintain supplier confidence. We are also proud that laboratory accreditation services are currently offered through TT LABS.

Today, standards and conformity assessment procedures are currently being harmonized to regional and international criteria and TTBS is party to international standardization and conformity assessment systems which facilitate trade with the benefit of reduced technical barriers. Given the Government's current mandate to negotiate additional bilateral trade agreements and given existing community trade agreements as a member of CARICOM, this supports the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications' objectives and fosters competitiveness amongst our exporters.

The Bureau has also developed new standards related to renewable energy and this is indeed groundbreaking and a demonstration of the linkages that need to be fostered between stakeholders to ensure that we move closer together towards achieving sustainable development.

As the National Standards Body, TTBS is now strategically poised to lead the country in developing a National Quality Infrastructure (NQI), consistent with the Ministry's Trade Policy and Strategy.

TTBS' contribution towards national development and regional development through its membership at the CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) cannot be understated as the organization has shown its overall commitment and has laid the foundation for furthering initiatives for achieving a secure sustainable future.

I wish TTBS continuous success as they continue to transform and reposition themselves to meet the requirements of changing markets and technological demands as Trinidad and Tobago seeks to diversify its economy and improve its global competitiveness.