

# Official Launch

## of a new standard - ACCESSIBLE AND USABLE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES



In February 2015, The Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) published a new National standard, at the request of the Consortium of Disability Organizations (CODO) TTS/ANSI/ICC A117.1:2014 - Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities which specifies the construction requirements necessary to make buildings accessible for persons with disabilities. The standard is an adoption of the ICC/ANSI A117.1 standard, which is published by the International Code Council (ICC) of the United States of America, and can be used to design and construct building elements so that persons with disabilities can independently, enter, use and exit a building.

Senator the Honourable Vasant Bharath Minister of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications and Minister in the Ministry of Finance and the Economy in delivering the feature address at the launch to some 100 plus stakeholders which included persons from the Architectural associations, Building contractors and Government Ministries and Agencies at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Friday 24th July, 2015, stated that *“building codes and standards can play a key role in ensuring that system infrastructure including our buildings are fit for purpose, sustainable, safe and accessible for all. Properly designed safe and accessible buildings are essential to expanding production*



**COMMITTED TO THE CAUSE:** Senator Dr. the Honourable Bhoendradatt Tewarie, Planning and Sustainable Development Minister pledging his Ministry's support towards the initiative.



**LOVELY SMILES:** Alison Grosberg President, Trinidad and Tobago Institute of Architects (left) and Sharda Ramlakhan Member, Consortium of Disability Organizations.



**MINISTERIAL SUPPORT:** Senator Dr. the Honourable Bhoendradatt Tewarie (left) Senator the Honourable Christine Newallo-Hosein (centre) and Senator the Honourable Vasant Bharath (right.)



**AT THE LAUNCH:** Senator the Honourable Vasant Bharath (third from right) and other government officials are flanked by other members who attended formal launch and technical workshop.

*in ensuring access to goods and service, trade facilitation, facilitating economic growth and improving the quality of life of all citizens particularly those with disabilities”.*

Speaking on the importance of such a standard, Senator the Honourable Christine Newallo-Hosein – Minister of the People and Social Development noted that *“the launch is timely, in the context of the ongoing work of the Ministry of the People and Social Development to ensure that persons with disabilities are able to enjoy full citizenship in mainstream Trinidad and Tobago. It is my hope that the new National Standard to effect accessible and usable buildings, will eventually fall under this umbrella of support”.*

Also providing ministerial support was Senator Dr. the Honourable Bhoendradatt Tewarie Minister of Planning and Sustainable Development who said *“I am pleased to say that the Town and Country Planning has now included the requirements of the standard into their policy into the design and construction of all public buildings in the country”.*

The launch was designed specifically to raise awareness of the issues and challenges faced by the disabled community and to allow participants to express their concerns. The Bureau received international support for this initiative from Juan Miguel-Diez, Resident Coordinator (Ag.) of the United Nations and Jay Woodward– Senior Architect, Business and Product Development from the (ICC) who provided an overview of the workshop and thanked all participating Agencies for its contributions and ongoing collaborations.



**IN THE CENTRE:** Senator the Honourable Vasant Bharath Minister of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications and Minister in the Ministry of Finance and the Economy (centre) is all smiles with representatives of the TTBS' Board and Management Team.

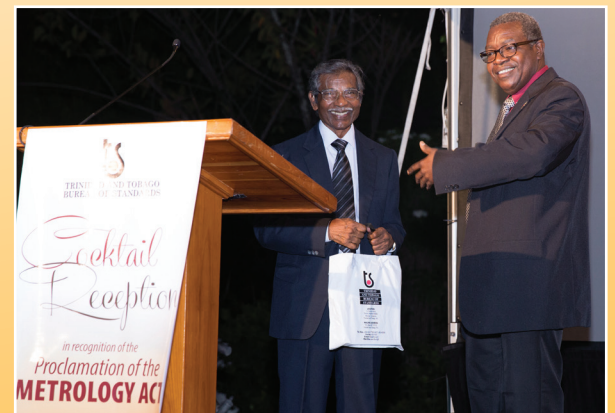
# Proclamation Launch of the METROLOGY ACT

On Thursday 9th July, 2015 the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) hosted a cocktail reception to celebrate the proclamation of the Metrology Act No. 18 of 2004 which became law in May, 2015. The legislation signaled a significant step in the development of a new national measurement system in Trinidad and Tobago. The desired objective of the reception was to familiarize stakeholders with the law and its implications as well as the benefits of the Metrology Act.



**GREETINGS:** Ramesh Ramdeen, CEO, TTM, delivers greetings at the reception.

Senator the Honourable Vasant Bharath Minister of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications and Minister in the Ministry of Finance and the Economy in delivering the feature address to stakeholders said *“Metrology is like a pillar that supports the economic and social development of a country and as Trinidad and Tobago seeks to diversify our economy, metrology is uniquely positioned to be a catalyst for innovation”.*



**SHOWING APPRECIATION:** Mr. Theodore Reddock – Executive Director (TTBS) (right) express his sincere appreciation to Mr. Bertrand Harnanan (left) who was instrumental in pioneering the Metrology Act.