



MEDIA RELEASE

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Fair Trading Commission Hosts Virtual Stakeholder Meeting with Corporate Counsel

The Fair Trading Commission (“the Commission”) recently hosted a virtual Stakeholder meeting with the Corporate Counsel under the theme “Competition Compliance, Governance and Enforcement: Practical Perspectives for Legal Counsel”.

Mr. Narinesingh, Executive Director, in his Opening Remarks welcomed participants and underscored the important role of legal practitioners in promoting competition law compliance, good governance and ethical business conduct. He highlighted the Commission’s commitment to fostering constructive engagement with the legal community, strengthening collaboration on competition matters and enhancing understanding of the Commission’s expectations regarding merger notifications, investigations, compliance obligations and regulatory engagement.

Ms. Krystle Maharaj, Senior Legal Counsel delivered a comprehensive presentation on the provisions in the Fair Trading Act, providing participants with practical guidance on competition compliance, merger review processes, anti-competitive conduct and the responsibilities of Corporate Counsel. Her presentation further explored key definitions, case examples, evidentiary requirements and enforcement considerations to assist legal practitioners in advising their clients and navigating competition law matters effectively.

In her closing remarks, Ms. Nisha Persad, Chairman of the Commission thanked participants for their active engagement and underscored the vital role of Corporate Counsel in promoting competition law compliance, sound governance, and effective risk management. Drawing on her experience as an Attorney-at-Law of over twenty-five years, the Chairman emphasized that compliance, transparency and ethical decision-making are essential components of sustainable business success. She further reaffirmed the Commission’s commitment to strengthening stakeholder engagement, enhancing communication and guidance and working collaboratively with the legal and business communities to promote fair, transparent and competitive markets in Trinidad and Tobago.

The virtual meeting also provided participants with an opportunity to share their perspectives on of competition-related issues, including any issues, challenges or concerns encountered when engaging with the Commission, as well as difficulties experienced with advising on competition law compliance and emerging risks and trends observed within their respective sectors or industries.

Stakeholders in attendance represented a broad cross-section of the legal and business communities, including representatives from ANSA McAL Limited, The Bermudez Group Limited (Kiss Baking Company), the Energy Chamber of Trinidad and Tobago, Menezes Boyack Law Offices, Alexander, Jeremie & Company, Caribbean Cement Company Limited, M. Hamel-Smith & Co., the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association (TTMA), JCS Caribbean Law, Lex Caribbean, The West Indian Tobacco Company Limited (WITCO)/British American Tobacco (BAT), the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce (TTCIC), Deloitte, Fitzwilliam, Stone, Furness-Smith & Morgan, Pollonais, Blanc, de la Bastide & Jacelon, A.S. Bryden & Sons (Trinidad) Limited, J.D. Sellier & Co., Hobsons, Phoenix Park Gas Processors Limited, Dentons Delany and PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC).

The Commission intends to continue engaging with the legal profession, the business community, consumer groups, academia and other stakeholders as part of its ongoing efforts to promote competition law awareness, strengthen compliance and foster fair, transparent and competitive markets in Trinidad and Tobago.



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