

MEDIA RELEASE



**Trinidad and Tobago
Securities and Exchange Commission
Levels 22&23, Tower D,
International Waterfront Centre
1 Wrightson Road, Port of Spain**

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TTSEC Hosts Virtual Media Sensitisation Session

Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission (TTSEC) today hosted a virtual Media Sensitisation Training Session with media practitioners, from the major newsrooms, to increase their awareness and knowledge base about the securities industry and the role and functions of the TTSEC, as regulator of the sector.

The session was opened by Lystra Lucillio, Chief Executive Officer (Ag.) who affirmed, *'The media has a fundamental role to play in any society - standing guard as one of the pillars of a democracy. This comes from the belief that the media's responsibility to keep the population informed, is essential to a healthy democracy'*.

In emphasising the role of the TTSEC, Ms. Lucillio referenced the institution's mission, *'to protect investors, promote and enable the growth and development of the securities industry by nurturing fair, efficient and transparent securities markets, co-operating with other regulators and mitigating systemic risk'*.

She pointed out that one of ways in which the TTSEC was carrying out its mandate was through public education on the securities market which provided a powerful form of protection, in terms of information, to investors.

Ms. Lucillio highlighted the fact that, *‘We can only effectively protect the individual or retail investor, if the public truly understands who we are, what we do, and the importance of this in relation to their investments and more broadly the securities market. In this regard, we must work with the media to bring about this understanding and awareness’.*

It was reinforced that the securities market is one way in which persons can potentially build their investment portfolio, and it was disclosed that total market capitalisation of equities is currently estimated at, **TT\$130 Billion or 86% GDP.**

The on-going COVID-19 pandemic has increased opportunities for unscrupulous persons and fraudsters to take advantage of vulnerable citizens by offering “get rich quick schemes”. To combat this challenge, Ms. Lucillio noted that although investors can already lodge complaints via the TTSEC’s website and by telephone, the TTSEC will launch its **Investor Protection App** in April 2021, to make it easier for investors to lodge complaints, and for members of the public to send in tips on investment scams.

‘Our role as a Regulator is to provide continuous education through a multifaceted financial education programme, to assist all citizens throughout their various life stages to make informed financial decisions and increase their financial literacy of the local capital market’, Ms. Lucillio concluded.

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