



**Media Sensitisation Training Session**

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2021  
10:00am – 11:30am**

**Opening Remarks**

**Lystra Lucillio, Chief Executive Officer (Ag.)**

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Good Morning to All participants!

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this Media Sensitisation Training Session – the first such exercise to be conducted with the media, by the Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission or TTSEC.

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.

As media practitioners, you know and understand your roles better than any of us - whether it be: informative; educational; offering a platform for robust debate; advocacy; providing a forum for entertainment and a voice for the public, to bring attention to, and communicate their issues.

You may ask, what is the role of the TTSEC in our society?

This is spelt out in much detail in the Securities Act 2012 (SA 2012), which governs our operation. It is, however, nicely summed up in our mission which states: *‘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’*.

In the course of today’s session, our expert team will provide a panoramic view on how this is achieved.

It must be highlighted though, that we can only effectively protect the individual or retail investor, persons just like your good selves, 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.

This Media Sensitisation Training Session is important, as we strive to ensure the protection of investors in our local capital market. It is clear from your positive response to our invitation, that you too recognise the importance of partnerships, in informing and protecting the public.

Education continues to be at the forefront of all that we do, as it’s part of our legislative mandate. In our country investing is at times viewed as either being the domain of the elite, taboo and or too complex to grasp.

Part of our role as a Regulator, is to promote opportunities within the securities industry for wealth creation among all persons and to provide investor protection while building the local capital market.

Towards this end, we continue to provide a multifaceted investor education programme to reach and assist all citizens, in making informed financial decisions.

We also provide information on the securities industry, which currently represents a total market capitalisation of equities; estimated at **TT\$130 Billion** or 86% of Gross Domestic Product.

The on-going COVID-19 pandemic has created the opportunity for unscrupulous persons and fraudsters to take advantage of vulnerable citizens by offering ‘get rich quick’ schemes. As part of our investor education programme, we help persons to recognise the warning signs and red flags of a scam.

Currently, investors can lodge complaints via our website and by telephone but this year we will be launching our, **Investor Protection App**, to make it even easier to receive complaints from investors, and tips from members of the public.

Sessions such as this, allows us to work together to ensure that members of the public are well-equipped with the information they need, to make the right decision regarding the investing of their hard-earned money. It is important that potential investors know what questions to ask before they make any investment decision.

Also, for investors to be aware that if, for some reason, they feel they were misled

by their broker-dealer or investment advisor or about an investment offering – that they can lodge a complaint.

It's important that **ALL** investors know that the TTSEC is working for them, and in their interest. At our session this morning are representatives from the following media houses:

1. CCN TV6
2. GML (Trinidad Guardian and CNC3)
3. TTT Limited
4. Tobago Channel 5
5. Trinidad Express
6. Trinidad and Tobago Newsday
7. Power 102.1 FM
8. ISAAC 98.1 FM, and
9. Radio Tambrin

We thank you for accepting our invitation and we hope this sensitisation session brings you a renewed awareness of role of the TTSEC and the securities industry; as well as strengthen our communication with each other; for the benefit of the investing public of Trinidad and Tobago. Thank you.