

# Dos and Don'ts of Investing

## DO

- Do work out what your investment goals are before you decide on an investment plan.
- Do consider what balance of risk and return you are comfortable with. Remember there is no such thing as a high return, risk-free investment.
- Do check that the financial services firm or adviser you are considering is registered with us.
- Do shop around. It helps you get the best value and most suitable product for your needs.
- Do find out what charges (if any) apply and what commission (if any) is paid to your advisor.
- Do find out what charges (if any) apply if you need to withdraw your money before the product is due for payment.
- Do check what happens to your investment if you die and make sure your next of kin knows where to find your documents.
- Do make sure you read all documents carefully.
- Do bear in mind that past performance is no guarantee for future returns.
- Do spread your investments to reduce risk.
- Do make sure that you have access to some of your savings for emergencies.

## DON'T

- Don't leave money doing nothing for long periods as inflation will eat away at its value.
- Don't be tempted by offers that seem too good to be true.
- Don't be rushed into making a hasty decision about a savings or investment product.
- Don't buy or invest in anything you do not understand.
- Don't be put off or impressed by financial jargon. Ask for an explanation if you do not understand a particular term.
- Don't commit to a long-term investment if you think you may need access to your money.
- Don't make an investment decision based only on the advice of a friend or family member.



**TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**  
**Securities & Exchange Commission**  
**Protecting the Rights of Investors**



## Protecting the Rights of Investors

The Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission ("the Commission") is responsible for ensuring that the securities industry operates in a fair, transparent and efficient manner in order to protect the rights of investors.

Q. How does the Commission regulate the securities market?

The Commission regulates the market by:

- Registering all securities issued to the public; all issuers of those securities; all market actors i.e. brokers, dealers, traders, underwriters, securities companies, and investment advisers; and all self regulatory organizations (for example, stock exchanges and securities associations);
  - Maintaining constant surveillance over the market to ensure that there is transparent, fair and equitable dealing in securities;
  - Hearing and investigating complaints from aggrieved persons;
  - Enforcing the penalties of the Securities Industry Act, 1995;
  - Conducting Investor Education programmes.
- All issuers of securities and market actors ("registrants") must provide the Commission with information on the company, its directors and the securities being offered to the public or to investors.
  - Firms and individuals are registered by category – each registration category has different education and experience requirements and permits different activities.
  - Registration will not be granted unless the Commission is satisfied that an applicant is fit and proper, meets the requirements of the law with respect to capital and educational qualifications and discloses any information that may affect the conduct and integrity of his business.
  - Market actors and issuers must continuously provide the Commission and investors with information inclusive of changes which may positively or negatively affect the performance of their business.

Q. How does registering with the Commission provide investors with protection?

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