



CEO Remarks
Launch of TTSEC's Secondary Schools Teacher's Manual and Student Workbook
San Juan South Secondary School
May 1, 2018 at 10 am

Salutations

Good morning

Ladies and gentlemen, today, May 1st, is indeed a momentous occasion for the Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission and represents a further step towards achievement of our mandate of educating and protecting investors in Trinidad and Tobago. We are pleased to be here at San Juan South Secondary School, to launch the first Edition of our Teacher's Manual and Student Workbook for Secondary School Teachers and Students, most fittingly, at the start of the Commission's annual signature event – National Investor Education month.

The Investor Education and Communications Division of the Commission has worked diligently, and has collaborated closely with the members of the Curriculum Division and with the Office of the Chief Education Officer, in producing the Manual and Workbook and we have finally come to the end of what has been quite a worthwhile learning experience for all involved. Copies of the Manual and Workbook will be made available for use by every secondary school in Trinidad and Tobago.

I wish to take this opportunity to specially thank the members of the Curriculum Division - Mr. John Roopchand, Ms. Nisa Suepaul and Ms. Roberta Phillip - for generously offering their time and expertise in guiding the TTSEC team throughout the developmental stages of this project. (Lead applause)

In addition to its other regulatory functions, the Commission is mandated to educate and empower investors in order to facilitate greater and more enlightened participation in the securities market. Our Investor Education Programme is broad-based and focuses on diverse groups across Trinidad and Tobago using several targeted approaches. This particular joint initiative with the Ministry of Education, however, will hopefully be even more sustainable and impactful as it should contribute towards building required knowledge and awareness of the capital markets and the principles of smart investing among both teachers and students.

The launch of this investor education Manual and Workbook comes at an opportune time, on the heels of the formation of the National Financial Education Committee, of which the TTSEC is a member, in March 2018. This committee, which is chaired by the Office of the Financial Services Ombudsman, has been mandated to develop a national financial education framework. The time has come for greater collaboration across all sectors and agencies in the interest of developing the financial capability of our citizens and producing a more financially resilient population. In this regard, we will be seeking to deepen our relationships with the Ministry of Education and other Ministries and Agencies in order to facilitate achievement of our shared mandates.

Ladies and gentlemen, I cannot overstate the importance of engendering a culture of wise financial planning and thinking among our youth, so that in the next five or ten years we will be able to see a noticeable change in the way we make decisions on how we spend, save and invest our hard-earned money. We also look forward to continuing to work with the Ministry of Education toward the development of well-rounded students, and wise leaders of tomorrow.

As mentioned, today also marks the start of our annual National Investor Education Month. This is the third year that the Commission will be celebrating Investor Education Month and the theme for this year's series of activities is: **'Invest with Confidence'**. As such, it would be remiss of me if I did not highlight some of our activities to be held this month. In addition to today's Investor Education Manual Book launch, I wish to bring to your attention:

- our Facebook Competition which begins on May 7th, where participants have the opportunity to win \$5,000, to invest in the local securities market - students who wish to participate can do so with the permission and under the supervision of their parents, of course -;

- our FREE outdoor exhibit at the C3 Centre in South Trinidad, which will be held on May 19 from 12.00 noon to 6pm, and
- the upload of new Investor Education tools on our website, which include a downloadable, electronic copy of our Teachers Manual and Student Workbook.

Additionally, I am proud to announce that, tomorrow, we at the Commission will be celebrating our 21st anniversary. We have certainly come of age!

We remain committed to providing a safe, fair and transparent environment for everyone to 'Invest with Confidence'. Effective Regulation, continuous Investor Education and commitment to Collaboration remain our strategic pillars for achieving success and fulfilling our mandate.

In closing, I wish to thank the Chief Education Officer and the Curriculum Division for supporting this initiative and other financial literacy initiatives in Trinidad and Tobago.

Let us continue our work together in putting education first and developing in our citizenry positive attitudes towards saving and investment so as to ensure a more robust financial sector and economy.

I thank you.