

MEDIA RELEASE



Trinidad and Tobago
Securities and Exchange Commission
57-59 Dundonald Street
Port of Spain

May 1, 2018

May is National Investor Education Month Invest with Confidence!

The Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission (TTSEC), is celebrating its 3rd National Investor Education Month in May. This year's theme is '**Invest with Confidence**'. This is a strategic emphasis as it highlights the following core functions of the securities regulator in maintaining investors' confidence and trust in the securities industry:

- **Securities Regulation** - Regulating the securities industry so you can INVEST WITH CONFIDENCE
- **Investor Education** - Knowing your rights and responsibilities as an investor so you can INVEST WITH CONFIDENCE
- **Collaboration** - Working together with all stakeholders so you can INVEST WITH CONFIDENCE

The TTSEC, as the regulator for the securities industry in Trinidad and Tobago (T&T), is responsible for not only supervising and regulating the various market actors and intermediaries, but also partnering with other regulators and entities to ultimately grow the market and protect investors.

Mr. Hadyn Gittens, Chief Executive Officer, TTSEC, said that, "In T&T we have recognised that there are portions of the population who are unaware of all the financial and investment options available to them. He continued saying, "we are at a critical time in our country where we need to be resilient and develop our financial capabilities so that we may leverage on the many investment options available to us, and better prepare for our financial future. As we welcome our 21st Anniversary on May 2, the TTSEC remains committed to protecting investors by enforcing regulation of the securities market and providing guidance to help investors make informed decisions about their hard earned money."

What is Investor Education (IE) Month all about?

National Investor Education Month provides the opportunity to encourage members of the public to raise awareness about the need for citizens to: think smarter about money; understand all the local saving and investment options and to know their rights and responsibilities as investors.

The TTSEC has a responsibility to alert citizens to the realities that exist within the securities industry and to facilitate a deeper understanding about how the industry operates and the TTSEC's role in its regulation. Everyone is responsible for his/her financial welfare and must be able to recognise the inherent risks that exist with any saving or investment option.

A core mandate of the TTSEC is to educate members of the public about their investment options and their rights and responsibilities within the securities industry. Critical to understanding investing, is grasping the concept of saving. Saving to invest is a major part of initiating an investment plan and it starts by getting informed and educated about financial best practices.

What are we doing?

In addition to its current investor education programme, which includes FREE interactive outreach presentations, the TTSEC today launched a supplemental **Teacher's Manual and Student Workbook** to aid secondary school teachers in disseminating information to students about: money management and investing, our financial sector, and our securities industry. A free online copy is available on our Investor Education website www.investucatett.com. A new brochure that simplifies our governing legislation, the Securities Act 2012, titled, '*Decoding the Securities Act*' will also soon be uploaded. We will also be publishing our 3rd quarterly IE Newsletter, so register now via our Facebook page, to be part of our mailing list.

Now is also a good time to take advantage of our outreach initiatives such as:

- A **FREE exhibit on May 19** at the **C3 Centre** from noon – 6:30pm
- A **Facebook Competition**, where you can win \$5,000 to invest in the securities market
- **Targeted investor education outreach sessions** (contact ccei@ttsec.org.tt to schedule your session)

Get Involved!

The next step is for each individual to take action. Purposefully work each day towards educating yourself on how to:

- Save to invest,
- Diversify your portfolio, and
- Gain and sustain your financial freedom.

Start in small ways by getting educated about the securities industry: visit our Investor Education website www.investucatett.com; 'Like' and 'Share' our Facebook page, and request a free investor education outreach session. The key is to start now!

Wise saving and investing starts with you. Ensure you educate yourself about your saving and investing options and always consult a registered financial advisor or investment adviser before making any financial decisions. Visit www.ttsec.org.tt to see if your investment adviser is registered with the TTSEC.

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