



Opening Remarks

Mr. Imtiaz Hosein

Chairman of the Board of Commissioners

Strategic Stakeholder Engagement Forum

Hyatt Regency Trinidad

Friday 14th June, 2024

- The Honourable Brian Manning, Minister in the Ministry of Finance
- Ms. Jennifer Lutchman, Permanent Secretary - Ministry of Finance
- Fellow Commissioners on the Board of the Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission
- Mr. Kester Guy, Chief Executive Officer, Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission and the Staff of the Commission
- Partner Financial System Regulatory Authorities
- Esteemed Panelists
- Representatives of the Securities Dealers Association of Trinidad and Tobago
- Representatives of the Mutual Fund Association of Trinidad and Tobago
- Representatives of the Bankers Association of Trinidad and Tobago
- Specially invited guests
- Market participants
- Members of the Media

Good morning!

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to this important forum, dedicated to invigorating the capital market of Trinidad and Tobago. As Chairman of the Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission, I am honoured to set the contextual framework for our discussions this morning.

We recognise that a key responsibility of the Commission is to "*create and promote such conditions in the securities industry that are necessary and appropriate to ensure the orderly growth, regulation, and development of the securities industry.*" This mandate underscores our commitment to fostering a vibrant, robust, and resilient capital market that can drive our nation's economic growth and development.

Today's forum is dedicated to collaboration. We aim to work closely with you, our primary stakeholders, to jointly consider the key strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats facing our capital market. This collaborative approach is essential for identifying and implementing strategies that will enhance the market's performance and sustainability.

Creating growth in the capital markets involves fostering an environment that encourages investment, innovation, and liquidity, while also mitigating risks and ensuring regulatory compliance. This growth can be achieved through various strategies and initiatives aimed at attracting investors, promoting market efficiency, and expanding access to capital. Our goal is to create a dynamic and inclusive market where all participants can thrive.

While you, our stakeholders, are the innovators and financial engineers, we want to ensure that three key pillars are always maintained:

1. Protection of investors' rights – Ensuring that investors are treated fairly, and their rights are safeguarded.
2. Transparency and integrity of all market operations – Promoting openness and honesty in all transactions to build trust and confidence in the market.

3. Proper definition and communication of risks – Ensuring that all market undertakings are clearly understood, and the associated risks are effectively communicated.

In this new era, we present ourselves as a forward-looking and collaborative regulator. We want you, our stakeholders, to feel free to engage with us on various initiatives for market growth and development. While we are not promising or guaranteeing approvals in this forum, we are certainly committed to engaging with you to align your initiatives with our key regulatory principles and ensure that our service standards are timely and engaging.

During this forum, we will capture the thoughts and initiatives presented today. We will reengage with you in working groups to determine the appropriate implementation of key issues for the development of our capital market.

Your input is invaluable, and together, we can build a stronger, more resilient market that benefits all participants and retail investors.

At this time, it is my distinct privilege to introduce our keynote speaker, **The Honourable Brian Manning, Minister in the Ministry of Finance**. He will be delivering the address on behalf of The Honourable Colm Imbert, Minister of Finance, who sends his regrets for not being able to attend.

Minister Manning will be addressing the critical topic of "The Importance of the Securities Industry to the National Economy." His insights will be invaluable, as we explore how a robust securities industry can contribute to the broader economic development of Trinidad and Tobago. We are grateful for his presence and look forward to his perspective on the vital role our industry plays in the nation's economic landscape.

Thank you for your commitment and participation. I look forward to a productive and insightful forum.

I now invite Minister Manning to the podium to deliver the keynote address ...

Thank you.