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MEDIA RELEASE

Joint Webinar Series “We Empower...You Thrive” by Ministry of Labour Small and Enterprise Development, Supermarket Association and OSHA attract thousands

A vast cross section of close to 3000 Employees and Employers have participated in the Webinar Series “**We EmpowerYou Thrive Webinar Series**”; jointly hosted by the Ministry of Labour Small Enterprise Development (MOLSED), the Supermarket Association of Trinidad and Tobago (SATT) and the Occupational Safety and Health Agency (OSHA) and featuring the National Insurance Board (NIB). To date, there have been four (4) successful online sessions with a recorded 99.85% of those who responded to the weekly surveys, expressing that the Webinar Sessions have catered to their employee or organizational needs.

The six (6) part Webinar Series via Zoom began on July 15 commencing with Radesh Bassant, Public Relations Officer of the National Insurance Board (NIB). The NIB attracted an enormous back to back audience for its first and second sessions with critical information presented to participants relating to the NIB’s services and its many benefits such as, but not limited to the Registration process of the National Insurance System, the importance of record keeping, sickness, maternity and special maternity, retirement, funeral grant benefits among other key topics.

The third Webinar Session which took place on Wednesday, July 29 was led by the Occupational Safety and Health Agency which addressed the cross-sectorial participants who tuned in for the Health and Safety Guidelines in the workplace within the ‘new normal’. Mrs. Ranu Doctor, Safety and Health Inspector II and Ms. Patricia Cross, Legal Counsel, attached to the OSH Agency, led the presentation and online interactions.

The fourth Session which took place on August 05, was led by Labour Inspectors of the Ministry of Labour and Small Enterprise Development, Mr. Farouk Mohammed and Ms. Paula Achaibar reeling in over two thousand participants. This session, which targeted all Minimum Wage Workers and Employers within the retail sector, hotel industry and alike



businesses, was centered on calculation of Overtime pay, access to sick and vacation leave among other key areas relating to the terms and conditions of work, templates on record keeping were also provided to employers. Part two of this Session will take place tomorrow Wednesday August 12 featuring these same Labour Inspectors. However, their focus will be on Maternity Benefits of all workers and the employment of young persons.

The joint Webinar Series will conclude on Wednesday August 19 with the HIV Workplace Advocacy Unit (HWAU) of the MOLSED where Unit representatives will highlight 'HIV in the Workplace in light of Covid-19' and the 'Principles of an HIV Workplace Policy' among other critical topics.

Although these online fora have been intended to primarily attract Employees and Employers of groceries, pharmacies and retail stores throughout Trinidad and Tobago, there has been a heavy subscription from organizations beyond these specific sectors; capturing the interest of both public and private sector organizations including but not limited to participants from NGOs, Academia and even the law fraternity inter alia.

The partnering Organizations, MOLSED, SATT and OSHA are extremely elated to have collaborated on such a pioneering initiative which is proving to have the anticipated significant impact on the working population of Trinidad and Tobago. During this period where many organizations are in need of this critical information and technical support, these Sessions will provide the framework for enhanced organizational operations while adjusting to the new normal and also improve their employee-employer relations.

To participate in our last two sessions, persons can register via any of the following websites:

Ministry of Labour and Small Enterprise Development: www.molsed.gov.tt

Supermarket Association of Trinidad and Tobago: www.satthq.com

For any queries, persons can contact: The Supermarket Association of Trinidad and Tobago via telephone: 762:9702 or email: info@satthq.com.

Attached are flyers for the upcoming Webinars for your reference.



Radesh Bassant, NIB Public Relations Officer kicks off the *'We Empower....You Thrive'* Webinar Series



Ranu Doctor, Safety and Health Inspector, OSHA, joined by Moderator, Desmond Lawrence at the OSHA Webinar Session.



Patricia Cross, Legal Counsel attached to OSHA responds to Questions from participants at the third Webinar Session.



Mr. Farouk Mohammed and Ms. Paula Achaibar, Labour Inspectors leading the Minimum Wage Webinar Session

Thank you in advance for your coverage of our Web series Initiative.

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