



Airports Authority
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MINISTRY OF
Works & Transport



New Flight Service between Trinidad and Tobago and the Dominican Republic



Mr. Hayden Newton and Mr. Emmanuel Baah with the Executive of an airline after a meeting



Mr. Emmanuel Baah with Sra. Carola Torquemada of Pawa Dominicana

PAWA Dominicana has announced that it will be beginning scheduled direct flights from the Piarco International Airport to the Dominican Republic in the last quarter of 2017. This announcement was made by Carola Torquemada, Director of Business for the airline at the 2017 Routes Americas conference at Las Vegas, Nevada. Ms. Torquemada expressed her airline's view that this new route will act as the catalyst to strengthen diplomatic ties between Trinidad and Tobago and the Dominican Republic. Additionally, with the decline in travel to the island of Margarita, PAWA is convinced that the Dominican Republic can emerge to be the next favourite vacation spot for citizens of Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Hayden Newton, General Manager of Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago ("the Authority") and a small team, met with PAWA and a number of other airlines earlier this year that are being targeted. Newton has stated that the Authority will continue on its mission to grow the number of air carriers and passengers transported through the airports with the vision of becoming the leader of diverse and innovative aviation business in the Caribbean.

Newton advocates that "airports are powerful catalysts for economic growth. Trinidad and Tobago's airports play an integral role in the country's tourism, trade and economic development. For each additional seat capacity added, there is additional connectivity for

trade and investment and additional revenue spent by visitors to this country."

Minister of Trade and Industry, Senator the Honourable Minister Paula Gopee-Scoon echoed similar sentiments on March 22nd 2017. Speaking at an event at the Piarco International Airport to mark the sod turning for Laparkan's new headquarters and cargo complex, Minister Gopee-Scoon quoted Norm Crabtree, a former Aviation Director for the State of Ohio, in the United States, and said "the airport runway is the most important main street in any town". She went on to state that "the airport is integral to driving commercial activity and plays a significant role in increasing regional and international accessibility and connectivity to global trade markets."

According to the World Travel and Tourism Council report for 2016 in 2015, in Trinidad and Tobago, the direct contribution of Travel and Tourism sector to GDP was TT\$5,385.3mn (3.2% of the total GDP). The total contribution of Travel and Tourism to GDP, through direct, indirect and catalytic sources, was TT\$14,142.8mn (8.5% of GDP) in 2015. Travel and Tourism supported 29,000 jobs (4.3% of total employment).

The Authority continues to be committed to the growth of aviation in Trinidad and Tobago and works towards securing all related benefits to the national economy and the nation as a whole.