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REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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MEDIA RELEASE

ECCL and Airports Authority Collaborate for Successful Craft Hub TT National Republic Day Craft Market

The Export Centres Company Limited (ECCL), a state enterprise under the Ministry of Sport and Community Development, in collaboration with the Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (“the Authority”), successfully hosted the Craft Hub TT National Republic Day Craft Market at the Piarco International Airport from **September 21st to 23rd, 2024 from 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. daily**. This initiative is aimed to celebrate local artisans and showcase the rich cultural heritage of Trinidad and Tobago.

Over the three days, the market provided an invaluable platform for artisans to present a diverse range of locally crafted products, including handmade jewellery, traditional textiles, and unique culinary delights. This event not only highlighted the creativity and craftsmanship of local talent but also drew in both local residents and international travellers, making it a vibrant hub of cultural exchange.

At the launch on **Saturday, September 21st**, the market came alive with Carnival-themed festivities, creating an exciting and welcoming atmosphere. Colourful costumes from Carvalho Productions paraded through the venue, capturing the spirit of Trinidad and Tobago’s renowned Carnival celebrations. Additionally, the Bishop Anstey and Trinity College East High School steel orchestra delivered an exhilarating musical performance that resonated with attendees, adding to the lively ambiance. The fusion of art, music, and culture created an immersive experience that engaged all the senses, allowing visitors to not only shop but also to celebrate the nation’s heritage. This blend of entertainment and commerce reinforced the market's role as a cultural landmark at the airport.

The strategic partnership between the Export Centres Company Limited and the Airports Authority proved pivotal in maximizing exposure for local artisans. By leveraging the high foot traffic at the airport, the market effectively reached a diverse audience, from locals eager to support their community to international visitors seeking authentic Trinidadian experiences.

The Authority recognizes its responsibility in shaping first impressions of the nation, and initiatives like the Craft Hub are essential in promoting local culture and creative industries. Moving forward, the Authority is committed to building more strategic partnerships to enhance the airport's sense of place and showcase the rich tapestry of Trinidad and Tobago’s culture while supporting the local economy and fostering creativity.