



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts

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MEDIA RELEASE

Six Tourism Accommodation Properties Sign TAUP Contracts

Government's continued commitment to the growth of Trinidad and Tobago's tourism was reiterated through the ceremonial contract signing for the Tourism Accommodation Upgrade Project (TAUP) earlier today at The Brix, Autograph Collection in Port of Spain.

Six tourism accommodation properties signed contracts to access grants under the TAUP initiative which provides an incentive to owners/operators of tourism accommodation properties to upgrade their facilities. The incentive is in the form of a partial reimbursement grant and is available to eligible small-medium sized tourism accommodation properties with 1-150 guestrooms.

The grant recipients include Cara Hotels, Holiday Inn Express and Suites, Par-May-La's Inn, Royal Hotel, Sundeck Suites and Tradewinds Hotel.

Senator the Honourable Randall Mitchell, Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts said that government's commitment, as well as ongoing collaboration with stakeholders to strengthen the destination's product, has contributed to a stable environment that stimulated the investment of millions of dollars into the sector.

The Minister pointed to the solid history of hotel investment that has seen nationals, both individuals and corporations, investing heavily in small and medium-sized hotels, guesthouses, and small tourism properties over the last several decades. He expressed gratitude to InvesTT for their continued efforts in attracting investments in Trinidad and Tobago.

"Coming out of the Covid-19 pandemic, these programmes are important because we need to get the economy going again. It is important that we ensure that all the tourism stakeholders across Trinidad and Tobago know that we have programmes like these and know that government is

interested in partnering through incentivising because we are interested in the overall stimulation of the economy.”

Minister Mitchell urged accommodations providers to reinvest in the improvement of their hotel rooms as this assists with stimulating the economy through the creation of jobs, especially in the manufacturing and service sectors. He also emphasized the need for stakeholders to tell the positive stories of Trinidad and Tobago in order to encourage more visitors to the destination.

Chief Executive Officer (Interim) of Tourism Trinidad Limited, Carla Cupid, said that the improvement in the quality of room stock will positively redound to an increase in the overall competitiveness of Destination Trinidad and an enhancement of the visitor experience.

“Our continued efforts must result in no empty seats, no empty hotel beds and a beautiful Trinidad overflowing with memorable experiences.” She said.

About TAUP:

TAUP is a tourism incentive which provides a reimbursable grant to eligible tourism accommodation properties in Trinidad and Tobago for upgrade work conducted to approved tourism accommodation facilities. The project caters for two categories of accommodation facilities; properties offering 1-5 guestrooms and those offering 6-150 guestrooms.

1. For the 1-5 category, properties can access reimbursements up to a maximum of 40% while the 6-150 category can access reimbursements of up to 50%.
2. For properties in Trinidad, reimbursements are subject to a maximum of \$25,000.00 per guestroom, while properties in Tobago can access reimbursements up to a maximum of \$30,000.00 per guestroom
3. Properties in the 1-5 guestroom category can access maximum reimbursements of \$150,000.00 per property over the three years while the 6-150 guestroom category are allowed a maximum reimbursement of \$1,500,000.00 per property over the three years.

Since its inception around 22 years ago, TAUP has facilitated approximately TT\$20.7 million in upgrade works for Trinidad properties and provided over TT\$6 million in reimbursements. 15 properties have benefitted. In Tobago, TAUP has facilitated approximately TT\$9.3 million in upgrade works for Tobago properties and provided over TT\$4.5 million in reimbursements. 19 properties have benefitted.

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts, through Trinidad Tourism Limited (TTL), continues to be responsible for the administration and implementation of all project activities related to the TAUP in Trinidad. Whilst the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) would be responsible for TAUP in Tobago through the Tobago Tourism Agency Limited (TTAL)

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TAUP Signing 1:

Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts, Senator the Honourable Randall Mitchell delivers the Feature Address at the TAUP Ceremonial Contract Signing earlier today at the BRIX, Autograph Collection in Port of Spain. Seated at the head table are Chief Executive Officer (Interim) of Tourism Trinidad Limited, Carla Cupid and Manager (left), Investment and Business Development Tourism Trinidad Limited, Cornell Buckrahee (right).



TAUP Signing 2: TAUP grant recipients share the moment with Minister Mitchell and Tourism officials. From l-r: Jason Laing, Director, Tradewinds Hotel; Jasen Rodrigues, Chief Financial Officer, Crews Inn Group; Carla Cupid, Chief Executive Officer (Interim) of Tourism Trinidad Limited; Pamela Gopee, Director, Par-May-La's Inn and Sundeck Suites; Senator the Honourable Randall Mitchell, Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts; Simone Thorne-Mora Quinones, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts; Sherry Sookoo, General Manager, Royal Hotel; Hassel Thom, General Manager, Cara Hotels and Cliff Hamilton, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Tourism Trinidad Limited.