



**Bankers Association of Trinidad and Tobago
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sunday, September 11, 2016**

BATT Urges Government and Opposition to work together to pass FATCA Legislation

The Bankers Association of Trinidad and Tobago (BATT) takes note of the current public discord regarding the recently laid legislation - "The Tax Enforcement Exchange Bill 2016". This legislation is a necessary pre-requisite that will provide the legislative framework to enable the Government of Trinidad and Tobago (GOTT) to meet its obligations under the recently signed Inter-governmental Agreement (IGA) related to the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA). This legislation seeks to create the framework which would enable the Board of Inland Revenue (BIR), as the competent tax authority in the country, to obtain from local financial institutions information on United States citizens, corporations or residents who may conduct various forms of financial transactions in Trinidad and Tobago. The financial information provided to the BIR by local financial institutions would be obtained based on their own internal Know Your Customer (KYC) procedures and in compliance with the definitions of US persons as defined in the FATCA regulations.

The Members of BATT have been preparing for the implementation of FATCA for over four years, as it is critical to economic stability and we are ready and able to meet the reporting requirements once the BIR initiates the implementation process. There are significant impacts for non-compliance with the FATCA regime on the individual citizen and the business customer. If non-compliant, local banks may be restricted or cut off from relationships with correspondent banks internationally, resulting in reduced availability or unavailability to clients of everyday banking services that we take for granted, such as remittance services, credit card and wire transactions, and other services requiring access to the U.S. financial system. Banks that do not comply with FATCA are subject to the imposition of a 30% withholding tax on U.S. source

For further info, please contact:
Kelly Bute – Seaton – Executive Director
Bankers' Association of Trinidad and Tobago
628-2944, 622-0282
execdirector@batt.org.tt

payments that they receive. In addition to the services used by the average client, access to trade services which are indispensable to many Trinidad and Tobago businesses, will also be restricted or unavailable. This will increase the cost of doing business in Trinidad and Tobago and make our local market uncompetitive.

It is important therefore that the Government and Opposition work together to meet the September 30, 2016 deadline and pass the required legislation. There can be no delays and the time for discussion should be expeditious and always cognizant of the fact that failure to pass this legislation could have serious consequences for the stability of the Financial Sector moving forward.

BATT as always stands ready to support the process and will continue to work with both the Government and Opposition to ensure the required legislation is passed within the deadlines established.