

National CSR policy coming

By Janelle De Souza Wednesday, October 5 2011



SEEKING CSR SOLUTIONS: From left Melanie Richards, CSR Chair & Principal CSR Solutions; Minister of Trade and Industry, Stephen Cadiz; Minister of the People, Dr Glen Ramadharsingh; CEO, Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Cathrine Kumar, and Housing Minister, Dr Roodal Moonilal. They all took part in a panel discussion hosted by the Chamber. Photo: KEITH MATTHEWS

The Trinidad and Tobago government is working on a joint project with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to develop a National Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Policy.

According to Minister of Trade and Industry Stephen Cadiz yesterday at the CSR Committee of the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce's breakfast seminar in Westmoorings, the policy will help firms to manage existing relationships and develop strategies to integrate CSR in their every day operations and attract greater investment.

Cadiz said government is a relevant driver in this area and will continue to work with inter-governmental organisations to encourage all local businesses to promote and integrate CSR.

Minister of the People and Social Development, Glenn Ramadharsingh told the audience CSR

activities and policies must be tailored to suit the country and its socio-economic landscape as well as keep in mind that people are the greatest and ultimate stakeholders of any business activity. He noted the Ministry of the People and Social Development has already embraces its roles as enabler and partner in the CSR process and gave the examples of the Children's Life Fund and the laptops distributed to Form 1 students.

In addition, Ramadharsingh pointed out that, last year, his Ministry was able to get 499 persons off the Food Card through the Ministry's empowerment programme, Rise-Up. Three thousand unqualified persons were also removed from the card list.

Minister of Housing and the Environment, Roodal Moonilal also spoke at the breakfast meeting. He said government must monitor, support, facilitate and partner with the corporate sector to ensure there is equitable distribution of resources.

According to Moonilal, the concept of CSR is the enhancement and mutual benefit of both the corporate sector and the community. He believed CSR could address social problems such as crime, delinquency, challenges in the education sector, etc as well as safeguard stability, peace and promote justice, thereby contributing to prosperity.

Source: <http://www.newsday.co.tt/business/0,148389.html>