

DOMESTIC TOURISM IN FOCUS

It's a simple equation: more visitors equals a stronger economy.

And according to Secretary of Tourism and Transportation Tracy Davidson-Celestine, her Division has given priority to developing strategies that will boost market penetration. Particular focus is being placed on the domestic market.

The Secretary said: "Sometimes we criticise the Trinidad market, but it is

the market that is keeping the Caribbean islands afloat, and if we have such an opportunity here, right there in our back door, we will also try to capitalise on that opportunity as well."

Davidson-Celestine said the Division has also been seeking to make further inroads in European markets.

She added that Tobago still has passengers visiting from Scandinavia, as well as two

flights from Manchester, England and Munich, Germany, that recently joined the Tobago route. She said the Division has been working "endlessly to increase flights to the destination".

Davidson-Celestine said 2,380 travel agents have been trained to market Destination Tobago in the last two years. There have also been 60 press trips to the island.



SAYING GOODBYE: Outgoing Chief Secretary Orville London addresses a luncheon held in his honour at Cafe Coco in Crown Point yesterday (January 19), as he leaves the job after serving for the last 16 years as Chief Secretary.

BHP BILLITON'S PEREIRA SAYS FAREWELL TO LONDON

Vincent Pereira, president of BHP Billiton, has paid tribute to outgoing Chief Secretary, Orville London.

Pereira visited the Chief Secretary on January 13 for their final official meeting, and said he has enjoyed their many meetings.

"... We do appreciate the access that the Chief has given us over many, many years, to come and sit and provide an update on how our company is doing but also to kind of test some ideas with him, to access some of his wisdom."

Mr. Pereira said the meeting also served an opportunity for both him, and the Chief Secretary, to reflect on their great relationship, both personally and professionally.

BHP Billiton has collaborated with the THA on numerous projects. These include a deep-water drilling campaign, education and environment-based social programmes.

TOBAGO GETS FIRST NEW NATIONAL DRIVER'S PERMIT

Tanisha Joefield is the first person in the country to be issue the new digital national driver's permit.

She collected it following the formal launch of the permit on Monday (January 20, 2017) at Tobago's Licensing Department.

Secretary of Infrastructure and Public

Utilities Gary Melville said the launch in Tobago shows there's an improved relationship between his Division and the Ministry of Works and Transport.

"It shows that the Ministry of Works and Transport has made Tobago, and Tobago's needs, a priority, and I want to thank the Minister for that," Melville said. "I want

to thank him and his staff because we're really looking forward to that continued collaboration."

Melville said the THA is working to improve conditions for Licensing Department staff, so that they can resume regular working hours. He is also asking them to step up their customer service.