

## PORT AUTHORITY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



### Press Conference Details

#### Incident on-board the M.V. Cabo Star/Cargo Arrangements

The Management of the Port Authority wishes to relay key points from the Media Conference held today, Thursday 07 September, 2023 at the Multi-purpose Hall, Ministry of Works and Transport. The travelling public and Port Users are advised on the following:

- The M.V. Cabo Star vessel sailed at 11.23pm from Scarborough on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023. A fire incident occurred on the vessel, following its departure from the Port of Scarborough, Tobago.
- The fire originated in an Engine Room, which was later isolated and extinguished by crew members, in accordance with vessel emergency protocols. No injuries were reported on board.
- At present, the vessel remains berthed at the Port of Port of Spain, where all necessary inspections, repairs, re-certifications are ongoing in order to allow for the resumption of service.
- Repairs are on-going. The electrical cables, required to complete these works have been shipped and are expected to arrive in a few days.
- Due to the non-sailing of the M.V. Cabo Star, interim measures have been put in place to allow for the transportation of foodstuff, and other perishables to Tobago, as priority.
- Vehicles with weights up to 7,000 kgs are being accommodated on the vessels, M.V Galleons Passage, A.P.T. James and the HSC Buccoo Reef from August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- Given the challenges with the M.V Cabo Star and the urgent need for the transportation of cargo to Tobago, the Owners- Bridgemans Services Group (BSG) has sourced an interim solution.
- In this regard, they have chartered a Roll-On Roll-Off (RoRo) ocean landing craft, the **M.V. Empreñedora**, which is currently located in Venezuela, as a temporary replacement while the repairs are being carried out.
- The **M.V. Empreñedora** is 77.3meters long and has a 915.53 gross tonne capacity, which includes 250 Lane Meters for cargo trucks. It voyages at a maximum speed of 10 knots. No passengers are allowed on the vessel.
- This substitute vessel is expected to arrive into the country within 48hrs and will be put on schedule on completion of the necessary statutory documentation to operate.
- It is expected that with the temporary addition of the M.V. Empreñedora to the inter-island fleet, along with scheduled sailings of the APT James, Buccoo Reef and the Galleons Passage there would be sufficient capacity to facilitate the cargo operations.

The Management of the Port Authority is grateful to TEMA, Coast Guard, TRHA and all other responders who have been assisting during this period.

The Board and Management of the Port Authority thank the travelling public for their understanding and support at this time.

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2023