

Trinbago Express T&T Ltd closes its doors

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TRINBAGO EXPRESS T&T Ltd has shut its doors due to mounting challenges stemming from the non-release of cargo, which resulted from Trinbago Express Shipping Inc's failure to pay shipping fees to international shippers.

The locally based company also announced yesterday, in a news release, that it has severed all ties with Trinbago Express Shipping Inc, which is incorporated under US law and based in Brooklyn, New York.

An online search revealed that Trinbago Express T&T operated both in Couva and Port of Spain.

The release stated that while shipments destined for Trinidad and Tobago have arrived, they remain unreleased at the ports, resulting in port rental and high demurrage costs.

The company clarified that it acts 'solely as the clearing and delivery arm within Trinidad and Tobago.'

It further noted that the lack of financial settlement abroad has prevented the release of cargo, placing both the company and its customers in a difficult position.

The company explained that recent promises to deliver cargo to customers did not materialise, as shipping payments remained outstanding.

It reiterated that the two companies are separately incorporated entities and are owned and managed independently under different directorships.

Trinbago Express T&T Ltd further said that it has no control or authority over financial transactions, overseas shipping payments, or the business practices of Trinbago Express Shipping Inc.

According to the company, despite these limitations it invested personal time, resources, and finance towards ongoing efforts to assist affected customers and seek a fair resolution.

It added that the offices were forced to permanently shut down as it could no longer sustain operations without revenue from cleared cargo.

However, despite the closures, the company assured that it stands ready to assist in any transition process that would allow affected customers and cargo to be properly released and delivered.

Trinbago Express T&T Ltd also expressed hope that Trinbago Express Shipping Inc would take immediate steps to address its outstanding obligations to shippers and customers.

The local company also advised that customers can direct further enquiries to Trinbago Express Shipping Inc, USA, or call its offices at [718-257-3833](tel:718-257-3833) or [718-2573443](tel:718-2573443).

The *Express* reached out to one customer who sent her shipment through Trinbago Express Shipping Inc. since January of this year.

Katrina Cuthbert-Slinger said that all she wanted was to receive her stuff before Christmas.

She told the *Express* in a phone interview that the goods she shipped were valued at US\$10,000 and that she paid US\$340 to have the relevant paperwork processed.

'I am hurt; it is frustrating; it is stressful,' she said.

She added, 'US dollars are hard to get. I get my US dollars and I spent my money. At least compensate people. We can't just lose our stuff and allyuh don't want to at least compensate us.'

When told about the closure of the local offices, she said that customers were aware of the closure as they had tried visiting to enquire about their outstanding packages.