

# 'Be part of T&T energy boom'

by Gercine Carter

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO IS inviting Barbadians to partner with the oil-rich republic as it forges ahead with a proposed US\$6.5 billion expansion of its energy sector.

Dr Vernon Paltoo, executive member of the Trinidad and Tobago South Chamber of Commerce, said six new chemical plants were being built over the next three or four years, with an accompanying US\$320 million to be spent on real estate infrastructure and another US\$285 million on "relevant core developments" to support the expansion.

"We would like to see people from other Caribbean islands and especially countries like Barbados come and take



**DR VERNON PALTOO,** executive member of the Trinidad and Tobago South Chamber of Commerce. (UR)

part in our investment climate, our energy sector, the area that is our strength and where we have excelled."

Paltoo told guests at a trade promotion event at Opa Restaurant in Hastings, Christ Church: "We would like to see you make money in Trinidad and Tobago." The event was billed **Trinidad and Tobago: The Place To Meet.**

Trinidad and Tobago's GDP stood at US\$20.8 billion last year. The country spent US\$6.4 billion

on imports, while export revenues were a whopping US\$14 billion, a surplus Paltoo said was primarily derived from the energy industry.