**GIDLA & ASSOCIATES **

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Senator Emmanuel George

Minister of National Security

Ministry of National Security

Temple Court

31-33 Abercromby St.

Port-of-Spain

Dear Sir,

**Application for Exemption from Visa Requirements under Section 13(13) of the Immigration Regulations, Chapter 18:01**

This office has been retained to act on behalf of twenty-three (23) Chinese nationals (list attached) of Guangdong Province, People’s Republic of China, to visit Trinidad and Tobago for a period of ten (10) days for business and tourism during 1 July 2013 to 30 September 2013. Exemption from visa requirements is therefore requested for that period to facilitate business ventures with local businessmen and commercial organizations.

It will be recalled that during recent China-CARICOM events, President Xi Jinping of China remarked “China always looks at its relationship with the Caribbean from a strategic perspective and we are committed to the building of a comprehensive and cooperative partnership”.

Similarly, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Winston Dookeran, stated “It will work well for people-to-people communications. Having an Embassy in Beijing will make it easier for Chinese people to acquire visas to visit Trinidad, so you can look forward to more Chinese visitors, more trade and more cultural and educational exchanges. Your culture is multicultural and we look forward to seeing the Chinese culture, through this development also become more multicultural.”

Dominican Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit observed “At the end of the day China has demonstrated seriousness, it’s not only talking in a practical sense. There are others who have stayed on the sideline and provided rhetoric.”

These twenty-three individuals are representatives of manufacturers in Guangdong, China, and will be here to negotiate with local businesses to provide advanced technologies and equipment to the agricultural sector, to supply raw materials to carnival band leaders and also to order steelpans from local pan producers.

Please note that the exemption under section 13(13) of the Immigration Regulations will facilitate the endorsement of a visa at an Honorary Consul in Hong Kong. The abovementioned persons cannot travel from China with a letter.

It is against this background that this office hereby requests visa exemption for these Chinese nationals to facilitate their travel from China to Trinidad and Tobago and seeks your favourable consideration in granting the necessary approval.

Yours faithfully,

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Christopher Gidla

Attorney-at-Law

cc Permanent Secretary

Ministry of National Security

Cc Honourable Mr.Vasant Bharath

Minister of Trade and Investment

Cc Honourable Mr.Stephen Cadiz

Minister of Tourism

Encls:

List of Chinese Nationals

Copies of bio-data pages of passports