



TRINIDAD CEMENT LIMITED

NOTICE

Trinidad Cement Limited (“TCL”) hereby advises that on April 17, 2019, judgment was delivered by the Caribbean Court of Justice (“CCJ”) in the consolidated matters of *TTOJ2018/002 Trinidad Cement Limited and Arawak Cement Company Limited vs. The State of Barbados* and *BBOJ2018/001 Rock Hard Cement Limited vs. The State of Barbados and The Caribbean Community (CARICOM)*, in relation to the question of whether a member state that has obtained a derogation from the Council for Trade and Economic Development (“COTED”) to increase an applicable tariff to a rate beyond the Common External Tariff (“CET”) is required to obtain the approval of the COTED in order to re-impose the CET rate.

The court ruled inter alia:

- (i) The derogation sought and obtained by the State of Barbados (“Barbados”) at the 11th Meeting of the COTED in 2001 included a derogation from the applicable CET on “other hydraulic cement” so as to impose an increased tariff rate of 60% on such cement;
- (ii) The state of Barbados was not required to obtain the approval of the COTED to revert to the CET of 0-5% on “other hydraulic cement” but that Barbados was required to give reasonable and adequate notice to the COTED of its decision to do so;
- (iii) TCL and Arawak Cement Company Limited (“ACCL”) were aware of the declared intention of Barbados to reduce the rate of duty on “other hydraulic cement” imported by Rock Hard Cement Limited (“RHCL”), and as such had adequate notice of the decision of Barbados to re-impose the CET rate.

As previously disclosed, on May 11, 2018, TCL together with its subsidiary, ACCL filed an application for Special Leave to commence proceedings at the CCJ against the state of Barbados to obtain inter alia declarations that Barbados contravened the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas by (a) unilaterally reducing the CET rate from 60% to 5% on HS 2523.90.00 “other hydraulic cement” and (b) misclassifying cement imported from Portugal and Turkey under HS 2523.90.00 rather than HS 2523.29.10 “building cement (grey)” (“the classification issue”).

The classification issue which relates to whether regionally produced cement and the cement imported by RHCL are like-competing products for the same end-use, and as such should be classified under the same tariff heading, is to be the subject-matter of subsequent hearing and decision. The hearing is set for June 11-12, 2019.

This Notice is published pursuant to Section 64(1)(b) of the Trinidad and Tobago Securities Act, 2012.