

## PriceSmart opens US\$15m distribution centre in T&T

PRICESMART has officially opened its new In Country Distribution Center (IDC) in Trinidad and Tobago. The 90,000-square-foot facility, located at P1 Paria Road, Phoenix Park Industrial Estate, Savonetta, represents a US\$15 million investment and marks a significant milestone in the company's global logistics strategy.

"The new IDC will serve as the central distribution hub for merchandise destined for PriceSmart's Clubs in Trinidad and Tobago and select Caribbean markets, reinforcing the Company's commitment to supply chain excellence and operational efficiency across the region," it stated.

### **A strategic location for regional logistics**

According to PriceSmart, Phoenix Park Industrial Estate is an established industrial zone strategically located near the Port of Point Lisas, one of the Caribbean's most active container ports. "Its position as a key thoroughfare for containerised cargo movements makes the site ideally suited to support PriceSmart's regional distribution requirements. The facility's location enables faster, more reliable movement of goods from port to Club, reducing transit times and improving overall supply chain responsiveness," it stated. PriceSmart said the IDC is purpose-built to facilitate a just-in-time inventory flow model, delivering the right products at the right time based on real demand signals from PriceSmart's Club network.

"This approach optimises warehouse space utilisation at the Club level, reduces holding costs, and enhances coordination across the supply chain. The facility is equipped to accommodate 3,500 pallet positions on steel racking, with an additional 1,000 pallets on floor storage, providing the operational scale required to service multiple markets efficiently," it stated.

PriceSmart said a defining feature of the IDC is its 18 container loading bays, which enable rapid, highvolume offloading and loading operations. "State-of-the-art bay infrastructure, centralised delivery from local vendors, and a modern wastewater treatment plant and retention pond are among the architectural and operational elements designed to support efficient, compliant, and sustainable facility management," it stated.

### **A sustainable facility built for the future**

According to PriceSmart, sustainability was a core consideration in the design and construction of the IDC, with approximately 60% of building operations incorporating energy-efficient practices and technologies. "The facility features LED lighting throughout, energy-efficient air conditioning units, insulated roof under-ceiling materials, and automatic flush valves. Warehousing circulation fans and fresh-air fans ensure proper airflow and reduce energy consumption throughout the facility's operations," it stated.

"The IDC was developed in full compliance with Trinidad and Tobago Regulatory Building Standards and holds approvals from the Ministry of Health, a Certificate of Environmental Clearance from the Environmental Management Authority (EMA), and a Trinidad and Tobago Fire Services Certificate.

Recycling initiatives and green conservation practices are incorporated into PriceSmart's holistic business model in Trinidad, and centralised local deliveries are expected to reduce the carbon footprint of transportation partners," it stated.

### **Economic impact and employment**

PriceSmart said the development and opening of the IDC generated an estimated 350 indirect jobs during the construction phase. "The facility now operates with a team of 34 direct employees filling roles across management, supervision, warehousing, and facilities maintenance, including managers, supervisors, forklift operators, receivers, and facility maintenance personnel. Approximately 26% of the workforce transitioned from other PriceSmart locations, reflecting the Company's commitment to internal career development," it stated.

"The economic benefit of the IDC extends beyond direct employment. Increased household income, local business activity, and tax contributions to regional governments are among the broader community benefits expected as the facility reaches full operational capacity. PriceSmart's partnerships with local government agencies, including Customs, Plant Quarantine, and the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS), as well as local suppliers and recycling companies, further anchor the IDC's role as a contributor to the local economy," it stated.