



Welcome Remarks

Delivered By

Andrew Sabga
President

Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of
Industry
and Commerce

**On the occasion of the Chamber's
8th Annual Business Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony 2012
Regency Room, Hyatt Trinidad Hotel
Saturday 10th November 2012
5:00PM – 9:00PM**

- **Senator the Honourable Vasant Bharath and Mrs Bharath**
- **Tonight's Distinguished Inductees and their representatives,**
 - Mr Joseph Esau
 - Mr Ronald Harford
 - The family of the late Mr Geoffrey Inglefield
- **Past Honourees of the Business Hall of Fame**
 - Mr Ken Gordon
 - Mr Arthur Lok Jack
- **Feature Speaker, Dr Aleem Mohammed
Chairman of the S.M.Jaleel Group of
Companies**

- **Mr Larry Nath Acting Group CEO of First Citizens and other representatives from First Citizens, our exclusive sponsor of the Business Hall of Fame 2012**
- **Mr. Brian Frontin – Chairman, Evolving TecKnologies and Enterprise Development Company Limited**
- **Past Presidents of the Chamber:**
 - Mr Gordon Deane
 - Mr Ian Welch
 - Mr Christian Mouttet
- **Chamber Board Members:**
 - Mr Moonilal Lalchan
 - Mr David Wong
 - Mr Ronald Hinds
 - Mr Robert Trestrail
 - Mr Wade George
 - Ms Paula Rajkumarsingh
 - Ms Luana Boyack
 - Mr Christopher Mack
 - Mr Rakesh Goswami
- **Ms Catherine Kumar - CEO of the Chamber**

- **Specially invited guests**

- Mr Dominic Hadeed – President of the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association and Mrs Hadeed
- Mr Hugh Howard – President of the American Chamber of Commerce of Trinidad and Tobago and Mrs Howard
- Mr Imam Haji Abzal Mohammed - *Vice-President* of the Inter Religious Organisation
- Other Specially invited guests

- **Members of the Business Community**

- **Members of the media**

Good evening,

I am delighted to welcome each and every one of you to this gala evening, and especially

pleased to have the opportunity to share such a special evening with each of you and, of course, our honourees of the evening:

- **Mr. Ronald Harford,**
- **Mr. Joseph Esau,** and
- the late **Mr. Geoffrey Inglefield** - whose family is here on his behalf, but who I am sure is also here with us in spirit as part of our celebrations.

I ask that you join me in again welcoming and congratulating our Inductees.

(APPLAUD)

We are also privileged this evening to have with us, **Dr. Aleem Mohammed**, who has kindly accepted our request to deliver our Feature Address. Dr. Mohammed, Chairman of the SM Jaleel Group of Companies, is no stranger to all of us in this room. We all know of SM Jaleel as a giant in the local manufacturing sphere and its immense success, under Dr. Mohammed's leadership, in penetrating many non-traditional international markets. His outstanding work has earned him the reputation as one of the Caribbean's visionary thinkers in management and leadership. We are truly honoured to have Dr. Mohammed here, and look forward to hearing him tell us his own story of his evolution to excellence in business...and beyond. Dr.

Mohammed, again, we welcome you to our ceremony this evening.

The Chamber's Business Hall of Fame, now in its 8th consecutive year, is considered one of the most prestigious awards for excellence in Trinidad and Tobago. Each year as we plan this awards ceremony, we aim to identify some of the most influential business leaders in Trinidad and Tobago – those persons who were central to helping develop our nation into the status of the Economic Powerhouse of the Caribbean that we now enjoy.

Tonight, we are extremely thankful to our Exclusive sponsor – **First Citizens** – who continues to see the importance of recognising

and rewarding excellence in business, and has been partnering with us to sponsor this event for six successive years.

In our last seven years of hosting this event, we have inducted **seventeen** individuals, both alive and posthumously, into our Business Hall of Fame. There are several of these individuals who have also been awarded National honours for their unwavering contribution to the development of business and for their service to their country. Therefore we know that we are on the right track in celebrating and elevating the “best in business”, who are making a difference in Trinidad and Tobago.

As the Chamber is an organisation that represents ALL businesses, we always seek to ensure that our Hall of Fame recognises successful business persons who have contributed in the various industries throughout the length and breadth of Trinidad and Tobago. Should you know personally of any such success stories, I take this opportunity to encourage you to share them with the Chamber so these individuals can be considered for future awards.

Indeed, as our local corporate landscape evolves, our aim is to continue to seek out stories of inspirational women who have broken through barriers in business. We already have one such Inductee.

Further, recognising that we are a twin-island State, we have inducted, and will continue to recognise the contributions of great business leaders from Tobago.

To bring you back to why we are here this evening: We will be sharing with you the stories of our 2012 Inductees. We will showcase these three men – Messrs Inglefield, Harford, and Esau – as individuals who embody leadership qualities which have driven not only their personal success, but also the success of many businesses and organisations they have been pivotal in leading. Peter Drucker said that “the best way to predict the future is to create it”. These are men who through their visionary

leadership created the future. We will highlight not just their corporate lives, but also their lives “behind the scenes”, revealing their spirit of national pride which allowed them to invest their time and talent to give back to their country in many different ways. We are, indeed, honoured to acknowledge this year’s Inductees – who are a diverse group of respected community leaders, and we hope that their stories will serve as an inspiration and reminder to us all, on the impact that just one person can make to create a better life for all people of Trinidad and Tobago.

This year, our event is additionally special, as we also use this as an opportunity to remember our 50th Anniversary of Independence and the

incredible strides in nation-building that our business community has made. This evening, our business persons are celebrating each other and showcasing how corporate Trinidad and Tobago has been instrumental in building our nation over the past 50 years. Looking forward at the next 50 years, we are truly excited by the vast prospects for business development that lay before us. In the next stage of our Independence journey, our business persons should proudly stand on the shoulders of those leaders who came before, and those who continue to position Trinidad and Tobago as a strong, stable economy. As business people, we must never adopt a laid-back approach to our nation-building efforts. We must follow the examples set by our

business luminaries and always be seeking new and innovative ways of building our companies, our communities, and our country. In this new world, the old ways of doing things will not take us to the next level, and we must stand boldly and take responsibility for this change to ensure our own success. We must also be guided by our National Watchwords: Discipline, Production, and Tolerance, as well as a sense of strong corporate governance, initiative and resilience, so we can always be remembered for the good we have done. The Chamber has said this before, and we will continue to say it: “Our future prosperity will only be guaranteed by our own efforts, and although challenges remain, we must be prepared to do the right thing at **ALL** times

even in the face of adversity, as there is no shortcut to success.”

As we roll out the red carpet for our Inductees and their families this evening, I once again congratulate our 2012 Inductees into the Business Hall of Fame. Albert Einstein once said “if I have seen further than other men it is because I have stood on the shoulders of giants”. You are the giants!

We salute each of you and we know that your stories of excellence will continue to carry on into the future and inspire the younger generations of business leaders who look up to you and whom you support.

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I now invite all of you to sit back and enjoy the delightful evening that has been planned for you, and to join us in honouring tonight's Business Hall of Fame inductees.

Thank you.