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Vote of Thanks

Delivered By

Catherine Kumar
CEO

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**

Good evening,

This has once again been an inspirational evening, and on behalf of the Board of Directors of the T&T Chamber of Commerce, I want to thank each and every one of you for taking the time to attend and share this special event with us.

I trust that you enjoyed your evening, and were encouraged and motivated by the stories shared of our three Inductees and our Feature Speaker.

Business, just like other fields, has its legends – and that is what this Business Hall of Fame is all about. It celebrates the legends of business and recognises their outstanding contributions within and outside of the business arena. As you have heard, our new Hall of Fame Laureates have made a sterling contribution to Trinidad and

Tobago, not just in business, but also to the wider society in T&T and beyond our shores. Their stories prove that, once you put your mind and commitment to it, anything is possible, even in the face of adversity.

Ladies and gentlemen, tonight I am very honoured to have been awarded the task of giving thanks to all who have made this evening's event possible.

Firstly, on behalf of the Chamber, I would like to thank our 2012 Inductees:

- **Mr. Ronald Harford**
- **Mr. Joseph Esau, and**
- **The family of the late Mr. Geoffrey Inglefield, who has graciously accepted this award on his behalf**

Thank you for choosing to accept our invitation to be inducted into our Business Hall of Fame. Please know that you have been chosen for this award because we believe you to be a leader in your business

field and that you have delivered a great amount of service to your country through different endeavours. Undoubtedly your contribution to Trinidad and Tobago has enhanced our nation's image and helped to put our country on the world stage.

Successful people push themselves to do more than they planned to do at the start. This is the kind of mindset which we believe drives our business leaders, such as the three men inducted this evening, to reach for and achieve business excellence. After

listening to their inspiring stories, it is clear that our 2012 Inductees certainly aimed, throughout their lives, to do their best. The lesson learned here, is that when one does one's best, the results are always exceptional and the excellent work done never goes unnoticed. The testimonies this evening also show that excellence in business often extends into one's personal life and has a profound overall impact on society.

Thank you to our Inductees and their families who have supported them for being here with us this evening and sharing your lives with us. You continue to inspire us all.

I would like to also extend a very hearty vote of thanks to our Feature Speaker this evening – Dr. Aleem Mohammed, Chairman of the SM Jaleel Group of Companies. Thank you, Dr. Mohammed, for accepting our invitation to speak this evening. Yours is truly a story of an evolution to excellence, and I thank you for taking the time to share

with us your journey in making SM Jaleel one of the most exemplary and successful companies on the local landscape. The advice that you have given will be remembered by all long after this evening. I will take away the 3D's – “If you don't dream it, you can't achieve it.”

This event would not have been possible without our Exclusive Sponsor, for the 6th consecutive year – First Citizens. Your generous contributions over the years cannot go unnoticed, and I would like to

especially thank Mr. Larry Nath – Acting Group CEO of First Citizens; Ms. Sharon Christopher – Deputy Managing Director of First Citizens; and their team for the generosity and readiness in partnering with us to host this signature event each year. First Citizens is a Diamond member of our Chamber, and we have been very fortunate to have such an involved Member, who shares our vision for celebrating the success of our business peers. On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Chamber, I thank you once again, and we hope to have

**your continued support for our Hall of Fame
in 2013!**

**We also thank the Business Hall of Fame
Selection Committee for their time, expertise
and dedication, and we also thank our
Members who took the time to nominate
these business stalwarts being honoured
this evening. We thank our Masters of
Ceremonies: Mr. Maurice Brash and Ms.
Hema Ramkisson, both of whom did an
excellent job in carrying this evening's
programme.**

Ladies and gentlemen, an event like this cannot happen overnight. The wheels started rolling months ago. It requires planning and a bird's eye for detail, and we have been fortunate enough to be backed by a skilled and dedicated team who worked tirelessly to make this evening a reality. Thank you to all for your involvement in making this year's event a success!

To all of our guests, we thank you once more for spending your evening with us. I

take this opportunity to invite you to join us again at our Breakfast Meeting with the Honourable Minister of Trade, Industry and Investment being held on Tuesday 20th November at the Chamber Conference Room, where we will be discussing the government's plans for investment, increase in export trade, and ongoing initiatives to improve doing business in T&T. We also welcome you to attend our Quarterly Luncheon on Tuesday 27th November, also at the Chamber, where we will have the Governor of Central Bank addressing the

business community on the Economic Outlook for 2013. Registration for both events begins as early as next week Monday, so please feel free to call us at the Chamber for more information and to book your seat.

Finally, we thank the media for your coverage of this event. Your involvement helps us to increase the public's recognition and understanding of our nation's business heritage, and as always, we are very thankful for your support.

As I close, I once again congratulate the Inductees of our 2012 Business Hall of Fame, and I ask that each of our Inductees – Mr. Esau, Mr. Harford, and Mr. David Inglefield, our Feature Speaker, Dr. Mohammed and Mr Larry Nath of First Citizens, to please stay on for a moment to take some photos with us here on stage.

Thank you to all. Please remember to take your booklet which carries the stories of our inductees. Please buckle up and drive

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**safely on the nation's roadways on your way
home.**