



Appreciation Remarks

To be delivered by

Ms Catherine Kumar

C.E.O

Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry
and Commerce

FINAL

Chamber's Annual Business Luncheon 2013

Wednesday 24th April 2013

Hyatt Regency Trinidad

- All other protocols previously observed

Ladies and Gentlemen

We have come to the close of the Chamber's 2013 Annual Business Luncheon and I know that it has been a long one so ask that you permit me a brief moment to give thanks.

First of all, to His Excellency Donald Ramotar, President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana – thank you sincerely for accepting our invitation to be the Feature Speaker today and for delivering an excellent presentation on the many opportunities available in Guyana to local businesses. As Guyana is perhaps one of our closest neighbours in the CARICOM region, and as a country that has demonstrated great potential for continued growth and development, it is only wise for us to foster and build mutually beneficial business relationships with that nation, especially as we begin to focus more and more on efforts to diversify our economy. Thank you once again Your Excellency, for attending and speaking today.

May I call on Mr. Moonilal Lalchan, our new Chamber President, to present a token of our appreciation on behalf of the Chamber to His Excellency.

(Mr Lalchan presents token of appreciation to the President of Guyana)

Thank you Mr Lalchan.

I also wish to extend, on behalf of the Board of Directors and all staff, the Chamber's heartfelt thanks to our Immediate Past President – Mr Andrew Sabga who has been an example of commitment and dedication, and who has contributed to the growth of our prestigious Chamber.

Andrew It has been an honour to work alongside you as President for the past two years, and I have learned considerably from you during your tenure. Thank you for carrying and maintaining the legacy of former Presidents.

Ladies and Gentlemen I must also thank Mrs. Angela Persad, former President of the Chamber from 2009 – 2010, and also the first female President, as she has now retired from her duties as Immediate Past President on our Board. Angella was President at the time that I assumed the post of CEO, and had been on the Chamber's Board since 2005. I thank her for her unstinting support and words of wisdom during those early years. She will always be an inspiring business leader and a great friend. Thank you Angella.

Also leaving our Board are Mr. Alan Fitzwilliam, who has been a Board Member with us since 2009 and Mr. Dane Darbasie, who has been a Board Member since 2007. I must say it was certainly a great pleasure to work with both these men, and the Chamber has certainly benefitted from their wealth of experience. They will certainly be missed.

We also wish to thank our very active past Chairman of our Tobago Division, Mr. David Wong, who served as Chairman of our Division from 2011 – 2013. Thank you, David, for your support of the Chamber's initiatives and for continuing the good work to make our Tobago Division a vibrant and active arm of the Chamber.

Although we are sad to see some of our stalwarts leave, we welcome the new Directors and as I said in my welcome, I certainly look forward to working alongside them and benefiting from their expertise, as we all work to advancing the Chamber's Mission.

Of course, we cannot neglect to thank our sponsors who have all helped to make this event possible:-

- **PLATINUM SPONSORS: REPUBLIC BANK LIMITED AND ATLANTIC**

- **SAPPHIRE SPONSORS – UNIPET, SOUTHERN SALES AND SERVICE LIMITED, EDWARD B. BEHARRY AND COMPANY TRINIDAD LIMITED**

- **AND CARIBBEAN AIRLINES THE OFFICIAL CARRIER OF HIS EXCELLENCY DONALD RAMOTAR**

We are extremely appreciative of the support coming from these companies and we look forward to future collaborations.

To our specially invited guests, Chamber members and other business colleagues thank you for allowing us to host you today.

To our media partners, we say thank you for always covering our events. You are the medium through which we reach the wider business community and we appreciate you being here. A special thanks to Heritage Radio - 101.7 and Talk city 91.1 which are carrying the Luncheon *LIVE* to members of the listening public, *gratis*.

To the Chamber's hard working and dedicated staff we say thank you for the continuous support and for the excellent organisation of today's event.

Ladies and Gentlemen our next signature event is the Caribbean Facilities Management & Maintenance Conference which is entitled "***Enhancing Productivity...Delivering Results***" and I wish to extend an invitation to all participants here today. This will be hosted by the Chamber's Facilities Management Committee at the Trinidad Hilton on May 15 & 16. We look forward to your support and urge you to speak to any Chamber staff member to register.

Let me thank you for your time, continue to have a great day, buckle up, and obey the cell phone law while driving.

Thank you.