



## **Vote of Thanks**

To be delivered by

**Ms Catherine Kumar**

**C.E.O**

Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry  
and Commerce

*FINAL*

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE “3RD ANNUAL PRE-BUDGET PANEL  
DISCUSSION”  
MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2013  
8:00 AM – 11:00AM  
AT THE LEON AGOSTINI CONFERENCE HALL, CHAMBER  
BUILDING**

**Master of Ceremonies, Members of the Head  
Table, Sponsors, Specially invited guests,  
Members of the Media and Ladies and  
Gentlemen,**

**It is my privilege to deliver a brief vote of thanks to everyone from our highly esteemed speakers, our sponsor, media partners, members and specially invited guests and participants to Chamber Staff for making this event a success.**

**The Chamber's Pre-budget Panel Discussion has become one of our signature events and your participation has made it possible for the third time. We believe that it is important to share the**

**social, economic and financial areas for growth and investment in Trinidad and Tobago.**

**Topics which have been addressed today such as SME Development, sustainability development for Tobago, our tax framework, and energy related issues have a direct impact on business and therefore is of concern to all our stakeholders.**

**We look forward to having some of these recommendations included in the 2013/2014 Budget and to working once again with the Ministry of Finance and the Economy in the next fiscal year to assist with the achievement of the goals of the National Budget.**

**This year, we also included a new element to our discourse: that of the economic environment within which the National Budget will be set. When planning a budget, there must always be a framework which**

**dictates your discussions, and we believed that it was certainly necessary to give an overall picture of our current economic environment which would guide those discussions this morning. And so, we thank Dr Roger Hosein, Co-ordinator of the UWI's Trade and Economic Development Unit, who agreed to join our panel and set the tone for our discussions.**

**I wish to also thank our highly esteemed speakers – Mr. Norman Christie, Mr. Wayne**

**Dass, Ms Diane Hadad and Mr Gregory Hannays – who have taken the time to discuss the issues and possible solutions for the sectors targeted for development in our society. Thank you for your support and for such informative presentations.**

**I now invite our Chamber President, Mr Moonilal Lalchan to present a token of appreciation to our panelists:**

**- DR ROGER HOSEIN**

**(MR LALCHAN PRESENTS TOKEN)**

**- MR NORMAN CHRISTIE**

**(MR LALCHAN PRESENTS TOKEN)**

**- MR WAYNE DASS**

**(MR LALCHAN PRESENTS TOKEN)**

**- MS DIANE HADAD**

**(MR LALCHAN PRESENTS TOKEN)**

**AND MANY THANKS TO OUR MODERATOR,**

**ONE OF OUR CHAMBER BOARD**

**MEMBERS, MR RAKESH GOSWAMI**

**(MR LALCHAN PRESENTS TOKEN)**

**Thank you Moonilal.**

**I wish to also thank our sponsor – BP  
Trinidad and Tobago for the session. Thank  
you for coming on board with us and for  
your generosity.**

**Thank you to our Chamber members and all guests for your participation and support. Events such as this provide an opportunity for you to share your concerns. This is one of the invaluable benefits we offer our members. It is our job at the Chamber to ensure that your voice is heard either through the work of our committees or through our focus groups, one-on-one meetings or events.**

**We therefore encourage and welcome your participation in, and continued support for, the many ways that we reach out to you. In fact, after this morning's discussions, I do hope to see all of you back with us for our Post-Budget Panel Discussion, which takes place the morning immediately following the presentation of the National Budget in a few months' time.**

**Of course, this is a date yet to be determined, as we await word from the**

**government on this, but we want to ensure that we continue the dialogue and discourse on this most important national topic with you.**

**To the media thank you for your coverage today and for once again ensuring that the information we share reaches the wider public. You are, indeed, our voice to the wider society and we truly appreciate your support as well.**

**And last but not least a warm and heartfelt thank you to the Chamber's hard working and dedicated staff.**

**In closing, I wish each of you a safe journey to your next destination. Please enjoy the rest of your day, buckle up, and observe the cell phone laws. Thank you.**