



Welcome Remarks
Delivered By
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& Commerce

Business Conversations with Leaders

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The Duncan Campbell Meeting Room

Good Morning

The honour is mine this morning to welcome His Excellency and his delegation to our Chamber.

Rare are the opportunities when a CARICOM Head of State, requests a meeting with the Private sector. An

opportunity we embrace wholeheartedly in the hope of building new bridges between our countries with a view to poverty eradication and real sustainable development.

The cumulative success of our Chamber's Members has a great impact on this country's economic growth. In the face of an economy that has experienced no real growth over the past 4 years, it is therefore clear that the Chamber must play that necessary

role as the bridge that connects the many regional stakeholders among the public sector, civil society and private sector, moving our Caribbean nations tangibly forward to economic growth and development.

The economic situation of the Member States and the region within the context of a framework for growth and regional development, the transport in the region and the reform process in the Community are the main themes discussed at the Conference of Heads

of State and Government of the Caribbean Community.

While it is necessary that our Governments speak to each other, these objectives will only be achieved through private sector collaboration.

We do have strong ties in our energy sector with Petrogaz-Haiti SA currently serving as the exclusive agent/distributor for Trinidad and Tobago's National Petroleum Marketing Company Limited (NPMC) in Haiti as well as its neighbour, the Dominican

Republic and the entire state of Florida in the United States.

However as you may be aware, achieving diversification both within and outside of the energy is a crucial objective for us. Therefore I look forward to learning more about the potential for collaboration in sectors other than energy. I also read in a recent article that in a visit to Guyana that Haiti has explored some possibilities for cooperation especially in the fields of transport, energy, trade, and I am sure we can find some similar areas of

opportunities between our two countries. Today we have with us our colleagues from the manufacturing sector, fashion industry and ICT to name a few.

Mr. President, I would like to see that Haiti and Trinidad and Tobago “Build Bridges to take us where we want to go based on imagination, openness and courage for the Common Good of our two Nations.”

Without further ado, I now welcome to the podium, the President of the Republic of Haiti, His Excellency Michele Martelly.