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Welcome Remarks
To be delivered by
Catherine Kumar
CEO of the Chamber

**ON THE OCCASION OF
BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO CONFERENCE (BIZOPPS TT)**

**WEDNESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2013
8:00AM – 5:00PM
LEON AGOSTINI CONFERENCE HALL, CHAMBER BUILDING**

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen and a special welcome to the Chamber's BIZOPPS TT two day Conference - also known as Business Opportunities in Trinidad and Tobago Conference.

A warm welcome to the Honourable Larry Howai – Minister of Finance and the Economy, and the Honourable Mrs Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan - Minister of Public Administration - who have endorsed BIZOPPS TT. We look forward to your remarks on the Conference during this morning's Opening Ceremony.

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I also extend a special welcome to our presenters and to our sponsors of the event – **Blink Bmobile, National Integrated Business Incubator System (IBIS), IGOVTT, Microsoft, The Ministry of National Security, T&TEC and Peter Richards Landscape Ltd.**

Ladies and Gentlemen, this morning's Opening Ceremony is being carried LIVE by CNMG and I would like to take a moment to recognise our members who have supported its LIVE airing on such short notice **HI-LO, KPMG, ACUITAS AND SOUTHERN SALES.**

To briefly share some information on BIZOPPS TT and summarize what this means to us and to you - BIZOPPS TT started off as an idea by one of the Chamber's young and bright economists who recognized the need for Government Ministries and agencies to be more transparent in their procurement requirements.

Our reason for hosting BIZOPPS TT therefore is simple. It encourages transparency which, like improving our national competitiveness ratings, has been very high on the Chamber's agenda. Transparency is linked to business credibility and can impact positively or negatively on our national image on global markets, investment opportunities and on business stability and growth. It is therefore a critical component in moving Trinidad and Tobago forward.

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Our overall objective therefore through the Conference is to promote good governance and procurement practices which can only benefit our business community.

BIZOPPS TT also brings together public and private sector in a way in which no other Conference in Trinidad and Tobago has done before. And so I must say that I am happy with the response by both sectors – public and private which has been exceptional! The Chamber could not have put together such a successful conference without the collaboration of both sectors and so I thank you for your support.

I would just like to add that we actually hosted this event on a much smaller scale last year. Our plan is to continue to promote it as one of the Chamber's yearly signature events so that it will grow in prominence. This is to facilitate our membership which has taken a serious interest in the Conference - evident by the excellent turnout of participants today.

With this said to our participants - I hope that the Conference and the information shared by our presenters meet your needs and expectations.

Welcome once again and I wish each one of you an enjoyable and successful BIZOPPSTT – thank you.

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