

# MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 25 October 2023

## **T&T CHAMBER ANNOUNCES THE 2023 BUSINESS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**

The Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce (T&T Chamber) is pleased to announce the 2023 Business Hall of Fame inductees — Mr. Trevor Lynch and Mr. Haji Gokool-Meah (posthumous). These two exceptional leaders are receiving recognition for their lifetime achievements in the field of business. The announcement was made during the T&T Chamber’s Champions of Business True Stories segment aired on October 24, 2023.

The T&T Chamber Business Hall of Fame award celebrates its 18th anniversary this year, inducting 42 business luminaries. The Business Hall of Fame recognises the contributions of businessmen and women to the development of the business sector, their communities and by extension the nation.

**Mr. Trevor Lynch** is the founder and chairman of TL Holdings Limited, TL Investments Limited, and Hydro Tech Limited (1987). With over 30 years of industry experience and knowledge, Mr. Lynch is considered to be the backbone and driving force behind the group of companies. He has served on the Economic Development Advisory Board and started the Mayaro Legacy Awards 2022 at bpTT Mayaro Resource Centre, where he was also honoured by the community. Mr. Lynch’s unconventional approach to business has not only set his entrepreneurial pursuits on the right track but also defied the odds of an evolving business climate.

**Haji Gokool-Meah** was born in Kashmir in 1847 and came to Trinidad at the age of six with his indentured parents. Overcoming personal and societal barriers, he rose to become one of the island’s major industrialists and philanthropists. Originally named Madhoo, he was adopted by a Hindu family after the death of his biological parents and subsequently called Gokool. Nevertheless, retaining his Islamic heritage, he later undertook the hajj pilgrimage and was given the title Haji. From his earliest labour in the cane fields, he purchased a donkey cart to do transport and then became a prosperous village shopkeeper. He would go on to venture into cinema, real estate, and cocoa cultivation. Despite being a hard businessman, he was committed to charitable activities, which he performed weekly, acquiring the title, Meah; by his will he established the Haji Gokool Trust. Today, two Port of Spain landmarks still stand, testament to his influence: the Globe cinema building in Port of Spain and the Haji Gokool Memorial Masjid in St. James.

The Business Hall of Fame category of the Champions of Business is sponsored by The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited. The company is also the sponsor of the Green Agenda award, the recipient of which will be announced on November 2, 2023, during the Gala Awards Finale at NAPA.

The Green Agenda award was introduced in 2021 and it recognises the contribution and commitment that companies make towards growing a greener future in business today and delivering a new blueprint for business in the 21st Century. The recipient of this award must demonstrate leadership in implementing energy efficiency strategies and be working to positively contribute to the promotion of a greener Trinidad and Tobago.

The T&T Chamber’s Champions of Business was introduced in 2005 under the name Business Hall of Fame and rebranded in 2014. As the award programme celebrates its 18th year, it continues to recognise a wide range of business achievements, including innovation, technological advancements, sustainability, internationalisation and a lifetime legacy.

This year’s theme is “Titans and Trailblazers” and with seven awards categories — Business Hall of Fame and Green Agenda, Internationally Known...T&T Owned Company of the Year, Breakthrough Exporter of the Year, Entrepreneurship, Innovation and SME (small & medium).

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The Champions of Business Gala Awards Finale will be held at the National Academy for the Performing Arts (NAPA) on November 2, 2023, from 6:30 pm. The cost to attend is \$995.00 + VAT. To book your attendance, e-mail: [events@chamber.org.tt](mailto:events@chamber.org.tt) or call 637-6966 ext. 1303/1308.

The T&T Chamber thanks the Supporters of Champions of Business 2023:

- **Platinum Sponsor:** The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited.
- **Gold Sponsors:** bmobile BUSINESS, Eximbank of Trinidad and Tobago Limited, the Ministry of Trade and Industry and Republic Bank.
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