



OPM QUARTERLY

SEPTEMBER 2016

A PROJECT OF
THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
SITE: RIVER-RUNS-THROUGH



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PRIME MINISTER TURNS SOD AT RIVER-RUNS-THROUGH

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A REPUBLIC?

EXCERPT FROM “FIRST PRESIDENT SPEAKS”

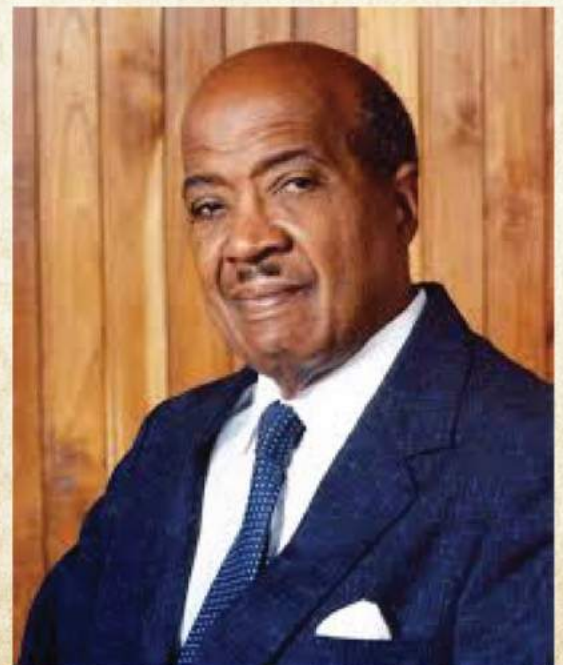
*Interview with His Excellency Sir Ellis Clarke TC,
the first President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (1976)*

Q: (What are) the significant differences between your being President of this new Republic and your previous position as Governor-General?

His Excellency Sir Ellis Clarke: Well first of all, before I answer your question strictly, let me say that I am grateful for this opportunity of perhaps clarifying a situation that is not as simple as one might assume it to be. I therefore welcome the chance to say that the major change is that the President of Trinidad and Tobago is the Head of State of the country. The Governor General was the representative of a foreign Head of State. The Queen of England was Queen of Trinidad and Tobago and other countries and the Governor-General of Trinidad and Tobago, although often referred to as the Head of State, was really the representative of Her Majesty. Now Trinidad and Tobago has its own Head of State. I think this is important, it is a matter of substance. It is also a matter that is symbolical of the – shall I call it – “adulthood” of the nation. We have grown up. We now have our own Head of State. In addition, the President has certain powers and duties that the Governor-General did not have. While the President is not an Executive President, he does have a number of duties, particularly in the field of making appointments and many of these are key appointments so that there is some dilution of the power formerly possessed by the Prime Minister and a transfer of a certain portion of the Prime Minister’s power to the President.

Q: You have stated what the presidency means to you. I am sure our citizens would like to hear your views on what the new Republic of Trinidad and Tobago should mean to them.

His Excellency Sir Ellis Clarke: Well, I think the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago should mean to them a country which they love, a country which they are prepared to serve. I think that hither to we have been lacking in a vital quality and that is patriotism. I should hope that this change to a Republic will enable us to think of ourselves as one people and to think of our country as a place to which we are absolutely devoted and dedicated. If our people can get this from being a Republic, then I think the change is more than justified.



His Excellency Sir Ellis Clarke TC.

MESSAGE FROM DR. THE HONOURABLE KEITH ROWLEY

Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the OPM Quarterly.

This issue is of particular significance to us, as citizens of Trinidad and Tobago, as it features two very important days of recognition on our national calendar – Independence Day and Republic Day.

This year we celebrated our 54th Independence Anniversary and 40 years as a Republic. Both days are testimony to our desire to manage our own affairs, to shape our own unique identity and determine our destiny.

In taking charge of our country comes with it the responsibility to resolve the issues which threaten our safety, security and prosperity. Therefore in this issue of the OPM Quarterly, we will share with you some of the Government's initiatives regarding crime and national security.



Moving forward, we will continue to inform you about the progress of key Government programmes and policies, as much of the national conversation on issues directly affecting our people and country starts at the OPM at the level of the Cabinet. In keeping with the theme of this issue, I ask you to recall the final words of our National Pledge and let those words guide your actions in the workplace, in your home and in your community, to ensure that our country remains disciplined, productive and tolerant.

*Dr the Honourable Keith Rowley
Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago*



*I will strive
In everything I do
To work together with my fellowmen
Of every creed and race
For the greater happiness of all
And the honour and glory
Of my country.*

GREETINGS FROM THE PERMANENT SECRETARY

It is with great pride that I invite you to peruse the 2nd edition of the OPM Quarterly. In this issue we introduce you to our colleagues in Tobago and learn about the initiatives of the Central Administrative Services Tobago (CAST).

Since our last issue, the Office of the Prime Minister has been actively engaged in a process of self-examination and self-improvement.

As you may be aware, the OPM is established to assist the Prime Minister in executing his duties and responsibilities, therefore how we operate is somewhat contingent on the wishes of the Prime Minister.

To this end the OPM embarked on a Strategic Review exercise, to ensure that in our operations we provide the highest level of assistance to the Prime Minister and the Government to implement the Government's Strategic Policy Framework for Managing the Country.

Our deliberations and discussions, at all levels of the organization, have given rise to a redefining of the OPM

Vision and Mission. To make sure that we get it right we are still tweaking these two vitally important organisational statements, which we will soon share with you.

I wish to thank all staff of the OPM for their very enthusiastic co-operation in making our Strategic Review exercise a success.

At the OPM we remain focused on results, as we deliver our mandate to co-ordinate the implementation of decisions taken by the Prime Minister and the Cabinet.



*Mrs. Sandra Jones
Permanent Secretary to the Prime Minister and Head of the Public Service,
at the ceremonial opening of the 2016-2017 law term.*

A WORD FROM OUR EDITOR

I wish to thank all our readers, especially the staff of the Office of the Prime Minister, for the feedback and support we have received for our inaugural edition of the OPM Quarterly.

We have noted your comments and we assure you that in our upcoming editions we will address your concerns and where possible put into effect your ideas and suggestions.

This edition has been produced around the theme from Independence to Republican status and in it we will share with you some facts you may not have known about these very important national days of recognition. You also get a glimpse into the operations of the Office of the Prime Minister (Tobago Affairs) – Central Administrative Services Tobago (CAST).

Through the OPM Quarterly, as well as our other communication tools - the OPM Facebook page (OPMTT), our Youtube channel (Office of the Prime Minister Trinidad and Tobago), Twitter (OPM_TT), Instagram (OPM_TT) and our soon to be re-launched OPM website - we will keep you updated on the matters impacting our country today. Information related to the Division of Gender and Child Affairs may be sourced via their website: www.opm-gca.gov.tt. Stay in the know with our colleagues in Tobago via their facebook page (Office of the Prime Minister Tobago Affairs-CAST).

A soft copy of the OPM Quarterly may be accessed via a link on the OPM Facebook page. We will also have for distribution a limited number of hard copies. Should you require hard copies for your office or Division, kindly call the OPM Public Information and Communication Unit at 622-1625 ext. 4020.

Keep on reading and remember we look forward to receiving your feedback.



*Ms Arlene Gorin-George
Press Secretary - Office of the Prime Minister
Editor-in-Chief*

WHAT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S HOUSING POLICY?

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago under the leadership of Prime Minister Dr the Honourable Keith Rowley is working assiduously on its housing policy.

The three pillars of the policy are:

1. Affordability; building quality homes at a cost which would be affordable for low to middle income earners through affordable mortgages, Rent to Own and Licence to Occupy programmes
2. Accessibility; constructing homes in high demand areas and at affordable costs
3. Improvement in the quality of living; through the provision of security of tenure to squatters as well as grants for home improvement and community upgrades

Currently, the Housing Development Corporation (HDC) has over 160,000 applications for housing. The need for housing is spread across the length and breadth of the country. However, the geographic area that registers the greatest need for affordable housing units is undoubtedly the East/West Corridor.

The HDC has now implemented a new system whereby, at various stages of construction, units are inspected to minimise and/or effectively treat with defects before the stage of completion. Therefore, once the unit is completed, it can be distributed without unnecessary delays for repairs and refurbishment. Potential homeowners are better assured of receiving the keys to a quality home.

Over the period 2016 to 2018 Government will embark on an extensive housing construction programme to help satisfy the demand for housing across the country. To date, two sod turning ceremonies have been held in the East/West Corridor which will yield some 200 units. These units will cost between \$400,000 and \$550,000. Prime Minister Rowley was on hand recently to turn the sod at the River Runs Through By-Pass Road, Arima.



The Prime Minister, Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, turns the sod with the Minister of Housing and Urban Development, the Honourable Randall Mitchell, while looking on are the Minister of Public Administration and Communications, the Honourable Maxie Cuffie, the Minister of Planning and Development, the Honourable Camille Robinson-Regis, Mr. Edwin Gooding, Chairman, Tunapuna/Piarco Regional Corporation, the Minister of Education and Member of Parliament for Arima, the Honourable Anthony Garcia, His Worship the Mayor of Arima, Alderman George Hadeed and Housing Development Corporation (HDC) Chairman Newman George



An illustration of one of the proposed housing designs at River Runs Through.

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (TOBAGO AFFAIRS)

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES TOBAGO (CAST)

As you may know, the reach of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) encompasses our sister isle of Tobago. But how exactly does the OPM operate in Tobago?

In technical speak, the Office of the Prime Minister (Tobago Affairs) – Central Administrative Services Tobago (OPM-CAST) has as its responsibility the co-ordination of matters related to Tobago, according to the Sixth Schedule of the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) Act. Simply put, the matters for which the Assembly **shall not** be responsible such as;

- The President
- National Security
- Foreign Affairs
- Civil Aviation
- Meteorology
- Immigration
- Legal Affairs including the registration of documents
- The Judiciary
- Auditor General
- Ombudsman
- Service Commissions



Attendees at the 2016 OPM-CAST Job and Career Fair.

Acting Permanent Secretary Mrs Bernadette Solomon-Koroma heads a staff of approximately 132 officers, organized across some 14 units, which include finance and accounting; legal; internal audit; registrar general; meteorological services; communications; information and communication technology; planning and monitoring; prices, weights and measures and human resources.

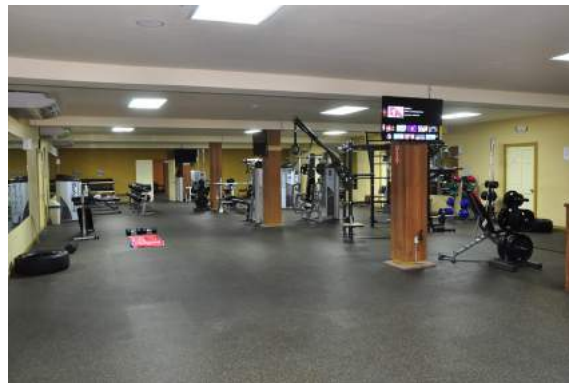
CAST SUCCESSES

OPM-CAST, to the credit of its staff, boasts several successful initiatives.

In August of this year, a vacation and afterschool programme was conducted at its premises at Orange Hill Road, Scarborough. Employees' children aged between 3-15 years participated in a programme of activities developed in keeping with the Government's policies for child education and development.

FOCUS ON GOOD HEALTH

A state of the art gym - which is accessible to elite athletes from the Division of Youth Affairs and Sport, as well as Central Government Staff, Tobago and staff of CAST- was opened in February 2016. In keeping with Government's call for citizens to adopt healthier lifestyles, the gym offers staff an opportunity for improved functioning of body, mind and spirit through supervision by qualified instructors.



Gym facilities for the Division of Youth Affairs and Sport, as well as Central Government Staff and staff of CAST.

JOB AND CAREER FAIR

The staff of OPM-CAST is particularly proud of two recent projects. In July the Division hosted its first Job and Career Day. The initiative was the brainchild of the Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister, the Honourable Ayanna Webster-Roy, and targeted current and former employees of the Division. In her feature address, the Minister urged attendees to take the brave step of moving outside their comfort zone when seeking to achieve their goals. She advocated entrepreneurship as a career option and advised those present to never give up in their quest for success.

Both public and private sector providers were on hand to guide attendees on the many employment and training options available to them. Staff from the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT); the Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Institute and the College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT) offered insight into their respective institution's courses and programmes. Private sector stakeholders included Guardian Media, the Bed and Breakfast Association, Tobago Information Technology Limited, First Citizens Bank, the Hotel and Tourism Association and Standard Distributors. The Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard, the Trinidad and Tobago Fire Services and the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service were also represented at the job and career fair.



Attendees at the 2016 OPM-CAST Job and Career Fair.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES

Currently engaging the attention of OPM-CAST is the construction of the new, high-tech, state of the art building for the Meteorological Services Division (Tobago). When completed, the facility will provide full measurement and forecasting of weather for Trinidad and Tobago. It will offer increased and improved meteorological services and will operate as an alternative provider of all essential meteorological services in the event that the Meteorological Services Division, Trinidad office, is unable to function in the wake of a natural disaster or other emergency.

Minister Ayanna Webster-Roy and her fellow Tobago Member of Parliament, the Honourable Shamfa Cudjoe, Minister of Tourism, recently toured the new Meteorological building located at Cromstain Trace, Crown Point, Tobago.

It is anticipated that the operations of the new facility will also benefit the Agriculture, Fishing and Tourism sectors.



The Hon. Ayanna Webster-Roy, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister and the Hon. Shamfa Cudjoe, Minister of Tourism, tour the new Meteorological building.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Celebrates 54 years of Independence!

Message to the Nation by Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, MP, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago
on the occasion of Trinidad and Tobago's 54th Anniversary of Independence

My fellow citizens,

By any measure, today should be regarded as a very significant and special day for each of us in Trinidad and Tobago.

Over the past few months, since assuming the responsibility of Prime Minister, you would have heard me speak about the importance of knowing and understanding our country's history.

Trinidad and Tobago's passage from Colonial rule to Independence, fifty-four (54) years ago, represented a political watershed in our country's history. While not wholly embraced by some members of the population, who initially expressed misgivings about the idea that Trinidadians and Tobagonians would be in complete charge of the affairs of the country, there was nonetheless an excitement and a sense of pride when the Union Jack was lowered for the last time at midnight on the 30th August 1962 and the national flag of Trinidad and Tobago was raised.



Prime Minister Rowley and other government officials at the Independence Day Parade stand at attention for the National Anthem.

I am certain if we could transpose ourselves back to that momentous occasion we too would feel all those mixed emotions.

On 31st August 1962, our Nation's first Prime Minister, Dr Eric Williams, in a radio broadcast to a new, democratic Nation stated, *"The first responsibility that devolves upon you is the protection and promotion of your democracy. Democracy means more, much more, than the right to vote and one vote for every man and every woman of the prescribed age. Democracy means recognition of the rights of others... Democracy means responsibility of the Government to its citizens, the protection of the citizens from the exercise of arbitrary power and the violation of human freedoms and individual rights. Democracy means freedom of worship for all and the subordination of the right of any race to the overriding right of the human race"*.

Fifty-four years later we must ask ourselves, how have we used our independence? Yes we may be considered an economically buoyant and a politically stable country. We generally enjoy excellent bilateral relations with our CARICOM, Latin American and International neighbours and partners.

But have we really matured as a people?

As individuals, on our journey to adulthood we often crave independence. We wish to free ourselves from the dictates of parents, guardians, supervisors. But as we mature we realize that with independence comes great responsibility, hope and expectation.



We are responsible for our actions, the consequences of our decisions and more importantly, to achieve our goals we need to work with and through others. So too as a sovereign nation, independence demands a clear vision for our developmental path while remaining cognizant of local, regional and international trends.

The celebration of our country's 54th Independence Anniversary comes at a challenging time when international developments are seriously impacting our national economy. We are all aware of the fall in oil and gas prices, the resources upon which our country is heavily dependent for needed revenue.

We find ourselves at a crucial point in our development when we are being asked to make some tough choices. But I always feel assured of the strength of our people to navigate these turbulent waters. Our capacity for innovation, our understanding of international events, our creativity and our characteristic sense of humour will triumph over any adversity we may face. I have faith in our ability to rise to the task of building a better Trinidad and Tobago.



Members of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service at the Independence Day Parade 2016.

Our aim now, both as residents and non-resident nationals, should be to build on our achievements to enable our country to remain on a steady path of sustainable development. We have a great deal of challenging work ahead of us but nothing worth achieving may be attained without dedication and hard work.

We have a very bright future ahead of us. Of this I am certain. We will tackle our challenges head on, together. We have to take care of every aspect of this country...our political and democratic institutions, our physical environment, and most of all we have to take care of each other.

Trinidad and Tobago is my home, it is your home and we all have a responsibility to protect, to cherish and to make this country the kind of home of which we can all be proud.

I wish you all a very Happy Independence.

May God continue to bless you and your family and may God Bless our Nation.



Prime Minister Dr. Rowley greets Fire Services Officials.



Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona, SC, ORTT delivers a toast to the nation.



Follow us on :     : OPM_TT

NATIONAL AWARDS

Recipients of National Award 2016

The Chaconia Medal (Gold) - In recognition of Community Service

- Ms. Grace Angela Talma - Management Consultant - Community Service
- Mr. William Mc Kenzie - Former Minority Leader of the Tobago House of Assembly - Public Service
- Professor Dave Chadee (Posthumous) - Entomologist/ Researcher - Science
- Mr. Ramesh Lutchmedial - Former Director General of Civil Aviation - Public Service
- Mr. Winston Leonard Riley - Civil Engineer - Engineering
- Mr. Winston Rudder - Retired Permanent Secretary - Public Service
- Mr. Justin Paul - Retired Permanent Secretary - Public Service and Education
- Professor Andrew Nathaniel Jupiter - Former Permanent Secretary/Chairman of the Board of the Petroleum Company of Trinidad and Tobago and Director of the National Gas Company - Public Service

The Chaconia Medal (Silver) - For long and meritorious service to Trinidad & Tobago

- Mr. Leston Paul - Musical Arranger/Producer/Composer/ Musician - Culture

Hummingbird Medal (Gold) - For loyal and devoted service to Trinidad & Tobago

- Ms. Brenda Le Maitre - Matron/Registered Nurse - Community Service
- St. Margaret's Boys' Anglican School/ Youth Steel Orchestra - Culture
- Mr. Irwin Johnson a.k.a. "Scrunter" - Calypsonian - Culture
- Mr. Timothy Watkins a.k.a. "Baron" - Calypsonian - Culture
- Mr. Angelo Bissessarsingh - Historian - History and Education
- Mr. Cornelius Lewis - Community Activist - Community Service
- Dr. Waffie Mohammed - Educator - Community Service



Professor Andrew Nathaniel Jupiter - Former Permanent Secretary/Chairman of the Board of the Petroleum Company of Trinidad and Tobago and Director of the National Gas Company - greets Prime Minister Rowley after receiving his award, the Chaconia Medal (Gold) in the sphere of Public Service.



Mr. Timothy Watkins a.k.a. "Baron" - Calypsonian - greets Prime Minister Rowley after receiving his award, the Humming Bird Medal in the sphere of culture.

DID YOU KNOW?

National Awards were first granted in 1969, seven years after Trinidad and Tobago gained its independence from Britain. These awards are presented to commemorate the Anniversary of our Independence.

Hummingbird Medal (Silver) - For loyal and devoted service to Trinidad & Tobago

- Mr. Jerry Baptiste - Police Sergeant - Community Service
- Mrs. Bibi Hallim - Retired Facilitator - Community Service
- Mr. Austin Wilson (Posthumous) - Retired Sound Engineer - Culture
- Ms. Deborah De Rosia - Educator/Community Activist - Community Service and Education
- Mr. Anstey Lumen Payne - Retired Technical Vocational Teacher Technical/Vocational - Education and Training
- Mr. Kenneth Paulsingh - Community Activist - Community Service

Hummingbird Medal (Bronze) - For loyal and devoted service to Trinidad & Tobago

- Mr. Keith Campbell (Posthumous) - Forester II - Gallantry

The Public Service Medal of Merit (Gold) - For outstanding and meritorious service to Trinidad & Tobago

- Mrs. Jacqueline Wilson - Retired Permanent Secretary - Public Service
- Dr. Rohit Doon - Medical Doctor - Public Service
- Mr. William Wilberforce Daniel - Chartered Certified Accountant - Public Service
- Dr. Vincent Gerald Moe - Retired Permanent Secretary - Public Service
- Ms. Margaret Wright - Retired Registered Nurse - Public Service
- Ms. Angella Jack - Retired Permanent Secretary - Public Service

The Public Service Medal of Merit (Silver) - For outstanding and meritorious service to Trinidad & Tobago

- Mr. Iverne Ebenezer Yearwood (Posthumous) - Former Medical Social Worker - Public Service

Medal For the Development of Women (Gold) - For Outstanding Contribution to the Development of Women's Rights and Issues in Trinidad and Tobago

- Ms. Monica Rosalind Williams - Retired Director Gender Affairs - National Service Organisation
- Ms. Angela Martin (Posthumous) - Journalist - Media



Prime Minister Rowley expresses his appreciation to Mr. Kenrick Campbell who accepted the Hummingbird Medal (Bronze) awarded posthumously to his brother, Keith Campbell - Forester II (Gallantry).



Ms. Monica Rosalind Williams - Retired Director, Gender Affairs - receives the Medal for the Development of Women (Gold).



Ms Grace Angela Talma (Management Consultant) receives her award - Chaconia Medal (Gold) in the sphere of Community Service.



Historian Angelo Bissessarsingh received the Hummingbird Medal (Gold) in recognition of his contribution to History and Education.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRESSES

NATIONAL SECURITY

National security is a top priority of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. As such, the Government has re-energised the fight against crime in the Parliament via several crime fighting Bills which seek to take profit out of crime and initiate reforms of the criminal justice system. They include:

- Foreign Terrorist Fighters Bill
- Bail (Amendment) Bill
- Proceeds of Crime, Financial Intelligence Unit and Customs Amendment Bill
- Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (MVRT) Amendment Bill (Red Light and Demerit Points System)
- Income Tax (Amendment) Bill
- Abolition of Trial by Jury for Certain Offences
- Indictable Offences (Pre Trial Proceedings) Bill
- Cybercrime Bill
- Gambling and Betting Bill
- Insurance Bill
- Civil Asset Forfeiture Bill
- Criminal Procedure (Plea Discussion and Plea Agreement) Bill
- Whistleblower Protection Bill
- Tax Information Exchange Agreement Bill
- Companies Act



Prime Minister Rowley responds during Prime Minister's Question Time (32nd Sitting of the House of Representatives - 1st Session of the 11th Republican Parliament, Wednesday September 14, 2016).

Prime Minister Dr. Rowley continues to hold regular meetings of the National Security Council (NSC), of which he is Chairman. The Council is charged with the responsibility of monitoring matters relating to defence and national security. The Attorney General, the Minister of National Security, the Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs and senior members of the Protective Services are also co-opted to attend meetings of the NSC.

More recently, the Prime Minister announced that he takes the responsibility for how community policing is implemented personally, as national security continues to be one of the Government's top priorities.



Police Commissioner (Ag) Harold Philip (left), and Chief of Defence Staff, Brigadier Smart (right), address members of the media following a meeting of the National Security Council at the Office of the Prime Minister.

CAZABON'S LEGACY EXHIBITION

The Office of the Prime Minister, in collaboration with the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts, hosted a month long exhibition entitled *Cazabon's Legacy: Works of Art by Trinidad and Tobago's First World Renowned 19th Century Painter*.

At the launch, Prime Minister Rowley noted, "When you look at those painting to see where we have come from in this country, to where we are, you might be able to come to the conclusion that we've made tremendous progress from Cazabon's days to where we are now and the future is bright."

Dr Rowley also reminded those present that the talent of the musicians and singers scheduled to perform throughout the duration of the exhibition represented "another facet of Trinidad and Tobago... the best of who we are as a people".



The National Steel Symphony Orchestra of Trinidad and Tobago, under the direction of Artistic Director Mr. Akua Leith, perform at the launch of the exhibition.



Attendees at the Cazabon's Legacy Exhibition.



Students of Newtown Girls' RC at the exhibition.

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

(Gender and Child Affairs Division)

Graduation Ceremony: transforming our nation citizen by citizen

On Sunday 21st August, 2016, the Office of the Prime Minister (Gender and Child Affairs) celebrated the graduation of three hundred and eight (308) men and women from the Women in Harmony, Defining Masculine Excellence and Home Management and Food Preparation for Men and Boys Programmes. Participants arrived elegantly dressed and ready to receive their certificates to mark the completion of their programme. They all felt a sense of pride and joy that all their hard work had paid off, and they were able to make another step in their personal development.



The Honourable Ayanna Webster-Roy and some of the executive team at the Gender and Child Affairs Division proudly stand with the graduates of the Women in Harmony Programme.

There were fifty-five (55) graduates of the **Women in Harmony Programme** with training in Agriculture/ Landscaping and Elderly Care. The programme was designed to address the problems of unemployment among women. The programme targets women who are twenty-six (26) to forty-five (45) years old and who are mostly single heads of households with low or no skills and low or no income.

The **Defining Masculine Excellence Programme** completed its six week course with ninety three (93) participants. The programme featured more than ten (10) modules designed specifically to stem the tide of problems associated with misconnects and perceptions of masculinity and catered to males aged fourteen years (14) and older.

The **Home Management and Food Preparation for Men and Boys** aims to provide males from aged nine (9) and up with culinary skills and fine dining techniques so that they can better contribute to the development of healthy families and improved social relations within their homes and communities.



The Honourable Ayanna Webster-Roy and some of the executive team at the Gender and Child Affairs Division, pose with the graduating class of the Defining Masculine Excellence Programme.

The five week workshop graduated one hundred and sixty (160) participants who showcased their culinary and home management skills by providing exquisite dishes for all invited guests at the end of the graduation ceremony.

The Honourable Ayanna Webster Roy, Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister (Gender and Child Affairs), delivered the feature address and sincerely congratulated all the graduates on staying the course and completing the programme. The Minister encouraged the graduands to share the knowledge received in their respective programme with their families, friends and communities. In this way, family by family, community by community, Trinidad and Tobago can be transformed into a more financially secured, safer and progressive nation.

The Office of the Prime Minister (Gender and Affairs) extends special thanks to facilitators, staff and supporting family members who were instrumental in the graduates' success.

We invite the public to look out for future programmes in your areas and to register early.



The Honourable Ayanna Webster-Roy and some of the executive team at the Gender and Child Affairs Division stand joyfully with the graduates of the Home Management and Food Preparation Programme as they display their certificates.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR OLYMPIANS!

During the 2016 Rio Olympic Games, Trinidad and Tobago's athletes offered exceptional performances which made us all proud. In recognising their many achievements, Prime Minister Dr. Rowley reaffirmed the Government's intention to nurture sports from the primary school level - with proper coaching and competitions - and even up to university level with a view to promote careers in sport.

With initiatives such as these we can surely look forward to many more stellar performances!



The Prime Minister, Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, poses with members of the 2016 Trinidad and Tobago Olympics Team.



The Honourable Darryl Smith, Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs, poses with Trinidad and Tobago's Paralympic athletes upon their return from the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. Photo courtesy the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs.

CABINET CORNER

Update: Members of the Cabinet appointed Committee to review the Levels of Health Care Delivery by the Regional Health Authorities and to rationalise the System of Public Sector Doctors in Private Practice presented their first report on Monday 12th September, 2016. The report is scheduled to be laid in Parliament shortly.

(From left to Right) Dr. Wayne A. I. Frederick - President, Howard University, Washington, USA; Permanent Secretary to the Prime Minister and Head of the Public Service - Ms. Sandra Jones; Dr. Winston Welch - Chairman of the Committee and former Medical Director at the Port of Spain General Hospital; Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley; Mrs. Valerie Alleyne-Rawlins - former President of the Trinidad and Tobago Registered Nurses Association; Dr. Adesh Sirjusingh - Administrator, Clinical Services, Sangre Grande Hospital, Eastern RHA and Professor Karl Theodore - Director, HEU, Centre for Health Economics, University of the West Indies (UWI). (Missing: Mr. Martin De Gannes - former General Manager, Human Resources, Scotiabank and Dr. Albert Persaud, former Executive Medical Director of Health, South West RHA.)



PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO JAMAICA

Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley undertook a four (4) day official visit to Jamaica in July.

In many ways, this visit served to reinforce the Government of Trinidad and Tobago's commitment to strengthening relationships with fellow CARICOM nations.

During the visit, Prime Minister Rowley engaged in bilateral talks with the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Most Honourable Andrew Holness, at the Office of the Prime Minister. During the discussions, the leaders addressed pressing issues including the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), immigration, energy, trade cooperation and consular matters.

Additionally, Dr. Rowley met with the High Commissioner to Jamaica, His Excellency Mr Fitzgerald Jeffery, during a visit to the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission in Jamaica.

Prime Minister Rowley also visited the Jamaican Parliament where he met with Jamaica's Leader of the Opposition, the Most Honourable Portia Simpson-Miller. Moreover, Dr. Rowley toured the University of the West Indies Mona Campus where an Induction Ceremony was held in the Prime Minister's Park to recognise him as a UWI graduate who became a Head of Government. Trinbagonian students studying at the Mona Camps also had the opportunity to meet with Prime Minister Rowley during his time in Jamaica.



Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the Honourable Keith Rowley and Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Most Honourable Andrew Holness, following the signing of the Joint Communiqué yesterday (Thursday 21st July, 2016) during a media conference at the Office of the Prime Minister, Jamaica.



Prime Minister Rowley and members of the Trinidad and Tobago delegation visit the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission in Jamaica. From left to right: Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley and his wife Mrs Sharon Clarke Rowley, Member of Parliament the Hon. Prakash Ramadhar, Minister in the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs and Office of the Prime Minister the Honourable Stuart Young, Trinidad and Tobago High Commissioner to Jamaica, His Excellency Mr Fitzgerald Jeffery, Mrs. London and Chief Secretary of the Tobago House of Assembly, Mr Orville London.



Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley unveils the commemorative plaque in his honour during the Induction Ceremony at Prime Minister's Park. Looking on are (from left) Mikaela Gonzales, President, UWI Mona Campus Guild of Students; Professor Archibald Mc Donald Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal, UWI, Mona Campus; Mrs Sharon Clarke Rowley, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor of UWI and Senator Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago.

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS



Prime Minister Rowley stands with members of the Trinidad and Tobago and Ghanaian delegations during a courtesy call at the Office of the Prime Minister (August 2016).



Prime Minister Rowley and members of the Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute (TTTI) during a courtesy call (September, 2016).



Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Dr. Keith Rowley greets Maarten Wetselaar - Director, Integrated Gas (Shell Global) while (from left) Mark Regis - Government Relations Advisor T&T, English/Dutch Caribbean Cluster, John Crocker - Executive VP, Government Relations Shell Global, Luis Prado - Country Chairman, Shell T&T, the Honourable Stuart Young - Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister and the Office of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs, De La Rey Venter - Executive VP, Integrated Gas Ventures and Derek Hudson - VP Shell T&T look on (August 2016).



During his official visit to Jamaica, Prime Minister Dr. Rowley paid a courtesy call on Jamaica's Governor General, His Excellency The Most Honourable Sir Patrick Allen, at King's House, Kingston Jamaica (July 2016).



Dr Rowley is joined by (from left) Brother Valentino, Movement for Social Justice Leader, David Abdullah and novelist Earl Lovelace during Emancipation celebrations at the Diplomatic Centre (August, 2016).

REPUBLIC DAY

A Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving



Religious leaders sit together during the Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving.

On Saturday 24th September 2016, Prime Minister Dr. Rowley hosted a Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving at the Queen's Park Savannah, Port of Spain. During his remarks, Prime Minister Rowley reminded citizens that Trinidad and Tobago "is still good" and that there is a great deal for which to be grateful. Dr. Rowley also emphasised that nationhood is an endless journey - no nation, from its birth to today, has had only good times. The Prime Minister urged citizens to be grateful and take responsibility for our land as, together, we strive towards greater heights.



Members of the Lydians as they deliver the final performance – "Ride on King Jesus" and "Battle Hymn of the Republic".



Prime Minister Rowley and members of the Government participate in the congregational singing of "God Bless Our Nation" and "Let There Be Peace On Earth".



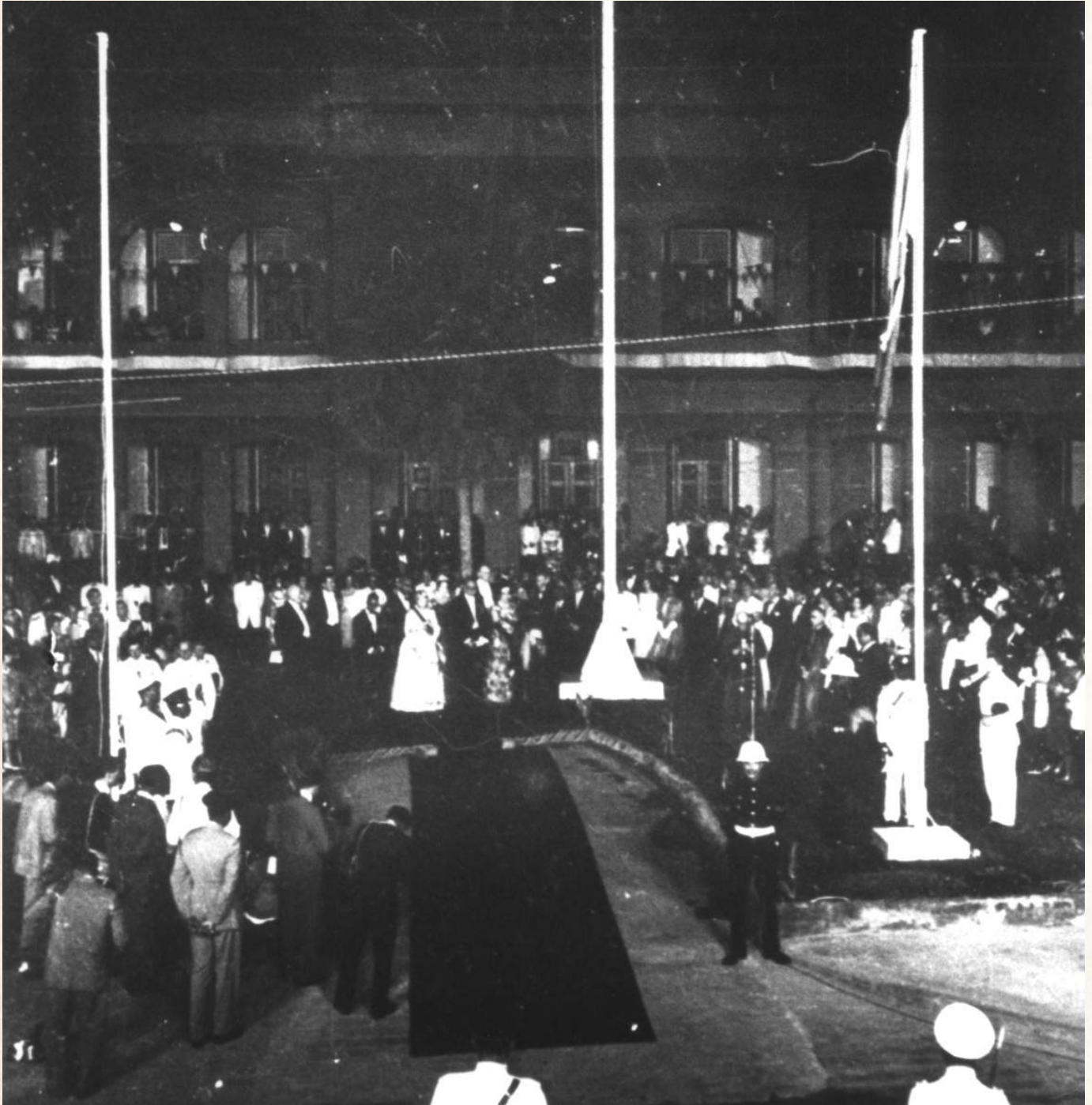
The Laventille Youth Chorale during their performance of "Oh Lord How Excellent" and "Anthem of Praise".

DID YOU KNOW?

Although Republic Day is celebrated with a national holiday on September 24th, Trinidad and Tobago actually became a Republic on August 1st, 1976.

A LOOK BACK

IN THE ARCHIVES



Hoisting of the Trinidad and Tobago national flag for the first time on the grounds of the Red House, Port of Spain, at the stroke of midnight on August 30, 1962.

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