



REMARKS

THE HONOURABLE CAROLYN SEEPERSAD-

BACHAN

MINISTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

MP FOR SAN FERNANDO WEST

AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE OPEN

HOUSE

HARRIS PROMENADE, SAN FERNANDO

WEDNESDAY 20TH JUNE, 2012



Ministry of
Public Administration

SALUTATIONS

Cabinet colleagues, Minister Vernella Alleyne- Toppin

Deputy Mayor of San Fernando, Dr. Navi Muradali

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Administration, Ms. Gillian Macintyre

Deputy Permanent Secretaries of the Ministry of Public Administration, Mr. Richard Madray, and Ms. Praba Maraj

Public Service Association Representative

Members of the Public Service of Trinidad and Tobago.

Members of the public

Members of the media

Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning San Fernando!

I am very glad to be here in San Fernando today at the special San Fernando presentation of the Public Service Open House. This is part of the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of Independence. It is also the 50th Anniversary of our National Public Service. As the Minister responsible for Public Administration I believe that we have to take the celebrations out of Port-of-Spain into the rest of the country.

Today is San Fernando's day and throughout the year, other communities will get the opportunity to have a Public Service Open House. This is an opportunity to interact with the Public Service, to see

what services they are providing for you and for you to tell them what you think and what you want from them. This is how we make the Public Service open and transparent.

I want everyone in South and Central Trinidad who are gathered here to know how our Public Service is working towards serving you and all the other citizens of Trinidad and Tobago, better, faster, at higher quality and at less cost.

Public Service Week 2012 started off with a 5K event that brought together over 2300 public servants and their families. It demonstrated the solidarity – the Public Service is a united front - we have moving

forward from the platform we have now in 2012 to the Diamond standard of the future. Saturday was really all about family, and having grown up in San Fernando, I can tell you that being here, among family, friends, constituents and supporters, I feel a confidence and strength that being in my comfort zone can give me.

I want in future that the public service will be your comfort zone, both as opportunities for employment and as a diamond quality provider of services.

Today and the whole of Public Service Week 2012 represents a unique opportunity for the people of our country to become better acquainted with the services that are provided by various Ministries, Agencies, Departments and other Government bodies.

In turn, the public servants here today from so many government Ministries and Agencies will be able to interact with their most important stakeholders, you, the public, and to inform you while learning from you about how we can all move forward together.

While we at the Ministry of Public Administration are facilitating Public Service Week, it really belongs to all the entities that form the Government and all of you,

the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago, including public officers, who benefit from the services the public sector provides. We are coordinating it but the week belongs to everyone.

Regardless of colour, creed, race, gender and geography every citizen of this country deserves the best that our Government has to offer. Every citizen has a right to information and the right to be heard. That is our goal. That is one of the end results of our journey From Gold To Diamond.

Transformation is happening not only at the level of the Public Service, but I am determined that it also happens at a local level.

As the Member of Parliament for San Fernando West, I am determined that San Fernando's own jewel, the Waterfront Project, will be completed. In that project we will see the convergence of public and private sector services in one central location, easily accessible to the city and its people.

Development and transformation do not equate to skyscrapers. Life is not all about steel, glass and concrete. It means efficiency of service delivery, it means convenience to the end user, it means an appreciation for what we were, who we are and what we want to become. The process, as in the case of going from Gold to Diamond, is as important as the product.

I have been referring to the journey from Gold to Diamond which is our theme for the celebration of 50 Years of Public Service.

‘From Gold to Diamond’ is a description of the path that the public service has taken and will take from its inception on the 31st of August 1962, to this year, our 50th anniversary of Independence and then to the year 2022. This is our Golden Anniversary and we are charting the path to 2022 our Diamond Jubilee.

We cannot celebrate our nation’s 50th Anniversary of Independence without giving due recognition to those public officers who have demonstrated excellence in their work and whose vision and determination

brought us to this Golden standard. It is on the platform they built that we will create the architecture for the next ten years.

A Public Service Gala celebrating 50 of those outstanding public servants will take place on the 12th of July. I would like to remind you all that the deadline for the submission of nominations for meritorious public servants has been extended to tomorrow, Thursday, 21st of June.

We are trying to make sure that all levels of public servants are recognized – excellence and leadership do not reside only at the top – they permeate all levels

of the service and we are hoping that by extending the deadline we get nominations for people who served at all levels.

This will not be the last gathering of this kind. As we move forward, it is my vision that this will become an annual event, a week-long face-to-face interaction and direct engagement between Ministries and Government bodies and their most important stakeholders, you, the citizens of Trinidad & Tobago.

It is my conviction that at future celebrations of Public Service Week, every Ministry, and every agency will be available to you on every day of the week, in a

spacious and accessible location. Every Ministry will be there every day and will be accessible.

This is our future. This is our vision of the Government and the Ministry of Public Administration. This week represents the first significant steps in making that vision a reality.

I thank you for being here with us today and I hope that you are as enthusiastic as I am and will join us on this journey from Gold to Diamond.