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MESSAGE FROM HER EXCELLENCY PAULA-MAE WEEKES ON THE OCCASION OF REPUBLIC DAY 2019

On 24 September 1976, our Parliament convened for the very first time under the new Republican Constitution, tasked with the solemn duty of making laws for the peace, order and good government of Trinidad and Tobago. The training wheels were off, the independence experiment over—Trinidad and Tobago assumed full command of its destiny.

Republican status was the outcome of a concerted effort by the engineers of our independence who firmly believed that we had the tenacity, resolve and wherewithal to take full stewardship of our affairs. On 1st August 1976, 14 years after we became independent, supreme authority was transferred from a distant sovereign and entrusted to the people of this nation.

Today, 43 years on, we take stock of our achievements, setbacks and ever-evolving identity. We have experienced the ebb and flow and ups and downs characteristic of a developing society and although we acknowledge these growing pains, we also recognise that we have been spared much of the peril



Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

that plagues other young nations in our region and around the world. In the midst of our circumstances, we can stand united by the Republican Constitution which sets out and guarantees our fundamental rights and freedoms.

Republic Day is a fitting occasion on which to acknowledge our responsibility to uphold the rights

and dignity of our fellow countrymen even as we celebrate our own and to recommit to our nation's founding principles of Discipline, Tolerance and Production.

This evening, we will honour those Trinbagonians who embody those principles and exemplify citizenship in its truest form—people who have placed country before self and have nurtured and developed our people and our institutions. The National Awards, now in its 50th year, recognises those individuals who have contributed to our national development and will showcase the dedication, brilliance, creativity, and innovation that exist in our twin nation.

Trinidad and Tobago is a developing nation with a long road ahead. As we celebrate this day, let us renew our understanding of what it means to be a Republic and exude those values in our attitudes, work ethic and civic duties.

I wish the people of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago a very happy and productive Republic Day.



Pictured: Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE DR KEITH ROWLEY, PRIME MINISTER ON THE OCCASION OF REPUBLIC DAY 2019

Today, as we observe the forty-third (43rd) anniversary of the founding of our Republic, as we commemorate this anniversary, I ask that we consider the significance of its observance as a national holiday and its importance in unifying us as a people, considering also the recent celebration of our 57th Independence.

Let us make this a reflective occasion in which we honour the sacred traditions and values of our democracy, reaffirming

our commitment to mutual respect, tolerance, freedom and equality among all citizens.

Above all, let this day be an occasion to recognize the bounties of our land, as well as the spirit and resilience of our people.

Republican status has allowed this country to chart its own course, and to determine, through the checks and balances of independent institutions, how we should be governed, and how we are recognised

by the international community, as a proud and truly independent-thinking people.

The foundation of this country and all that we stand for was laid out within our Constitution, that document crafted by Trinidad and Tobago nationals, who worked together to outline our basic principles and aspirations. Today, we can say that we have derived, in great measure, our togetherness from those values enshrined in our Constitution.

We must always be prepared to defend this country from those who would diminish or dismiss us in the variety of ways that this may be presented. Loving and caring for Trinidad and Tobago is an assignment for each of us, one that we cannot pass on to others whether local or foreign.

The 1976 Republican Constitution has given us also to some degree a maturity that now we can envision, and outline a framework for the creation of a New Society.

I want you to remember that today we hold that power.

As a sovereign nation, it is within the hands of every citizen to determine both the future he or she wants for themselves and the legacy we all want to pass on to future generations.

This country continues to face some economic challenges, such as falling energy prices, production and consequently revenues, which continue to threaten the quality of our lives.

Another area of my concern, deserving of a national conversation, is that of our youth. There are reports which describe

some youths as discontented, cynical, bored, violent, aimless and idle. Such a description fits the profile of the socially-disengaged youth which is a feature which is appearing, worldwide. In Trinidad and Tobago, our home, this land of rich history and much promise we still see many of our citizens in significant positions throughout the world.

We continue to make contributions in almost every human experience. To this end I wish to pay tribute to our athletes. In March, our team brought home 56 medals for the Special Olympics in Abu Dhabi; at the Pan Am games last month, we received 13 medals, the second highest in the Caribbean, and our cyclists, created history, competing against each other in the finals, bringing home Gold and Silver medals.

However, there is a need for further empirical work on our youths to enhance our policies and to engage them in very many ways which would instil pride and responsibility into their lives.

It is an area deserving of open discussion, particularly as the language of millennials in the globalised, digital world of the 21st Century is about creating New Societies, using artificial intelligence, 5G-enabled applications, the Internet of Things, radical innovations, technologies, creative lifestyles and, most importantly, new jobs.

Let me reassure you that for the past four years your Government has been putting things in place towards achieving this vision of a New Society. You have seen us passing the legislation to curtail crime and corruption. Expanded judicial space is being created at the current parliamentary chambers at the International Waterfront Centre, once the refurbishment works at

the Red House are completed. This will move the management of civil matters away from the Hall of Justice, ensuring that the backlog of cases is cleared up, allowing for the swift delivery of justice.

With reduced national revenues we still continue to build and repair highways, bridges, healthcare facilities, schools and community centres and continue to improve the delivery of key government services to citizens.

This work redounds to the benefit of not just this generation, but all generations to come. These actions are part of your government's thrust toward the New Society and merging all of Trinidad and Tobago as one -- to the benefit of us all.

The building of the New Society is not a job for politicians alone. The New Society is one in which every citizen of this country becomes involved in shaping his/her future in our nation: a place where every citizen will see his/her individual responsibility to keep our streets clean, our communities crime-free, our roadways safe and our children safe and free from abuse and neglect.

A New Society is a kinder society, in which we respect each other and ourselves.

Republic Day stands as our reminder that with freedom comes responsibility. The hard-won freedom to govern ourselves is accompanied by a need for civic responsibility, empathy for one another, and a sense of genuine national pride, with boundless faith in our destiny.

Happy Republic Day.

Dr Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

50TH ANNIVERSARY NATIONAL AWARDS

The National Awards of Trinidad and Tobago acknowledge the involvement of citizens and non-nationals who have had a significant and positive impact on the twin island Republic. The awards which were instituted in 1969 have been presented yearly in four categories, they are:

The Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (replaced the Trinity Cross as the Highest Award), The Trinity Cross (Last awarded in 2005), The Chaconia Medal, The Humming Bird Medal and The Public Servants' Medal of Merit.

On Tuesday September 24th, Republic

Day, Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes, O.R.T.T., President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, hosted the 50th Anniversary National Awards at the National Academy for the Performing Arts in Port of Spain. Forty individuals and one organisation were honoured.

NAME	POSITION	IN THE SPHERE OF:
ORDER OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO - The highest award in TnT for distinguished and outstanding service to Trinidad & Tobago		
Professor Hollis Urban Liverpool "Chalkdust"	Associate Professor of History	Education/Culture/Research
CHACONIA MEDAL (GOLD) - For Long and Meritorious service to Trinidad & Tobago		
Professor Bharat Bassaw	Professor/Consultant Obstetrics and Gynaecology	Medicine
Mr. Clarry Benn	Former Executive Director of the Unit Trust Corporation and Chairman of the National Entrepreneurship Development Company Limited (NEDCO)	Finance
Major General Ralph Brown (Retired)	Former Chief of Defence Staff	Public Service
Professor Lawrence Carrington	Professor Emeritus University of the West Indies	Language and Development
Mr. Donald Howard "Jackie" Hinkson	Artist	Art
Mr. Nizam Mohammed	Attorney-at-Law	Public Service
Mr. Kenneth Cyril Valley (Posthumously)	Politician	Public Service
CHACONIA MEDAL (SILVER) - For Long and Meritorious service to Trinidad & Tobago		
Mrs. Christie-Anne Morris-Alleyne	Attorney-at-Law	Civil Service
Dr. Esla Valerie Lynch	Former Principal	Education/Public Service
HUMMINGBIRD MEDAL (GOLD) - For loyal and devoted service to Trinidad & Tobago		
Miss Martha Archer	Former Business Services Manager at the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA)	Sport
Mr. Darrin Roger Brian Carmichael	Executive Director of Community Defence Services (Neighbourhood Watch)	Community Service
Ms Norma Eleanor Blizzard-Inniss	Former Pharmacist	Public Service
Mr. Richard Fakoory (Posthumously)	Businessman	Community Service/Sport
Dr. Maura Patricia Imbert	Biochemist/University Lecturer	Astronomy
Mrs. Cathryn Kelshall	Teacher	Education
Professor Aftab Khan	"Professor Emeritus of Geophysics University of Leicester"	Academics
Dr. Lesley Ann Roberts	Nephrologist	Medicine
Mr. John Seyjagat	Lecturer Executive Director of the Zoological Association of America and International Director of the Zoological Society of Trinidad and Tobago	Education/Conservation
Trinidad and Tobago Association of Retired (Responsible) Persons (TTARP)	Organisation	National Service
HUMMINGBIRD MEDAL (SILVER) - For loyal and devoted service to Trinidad & Tobago		
Mrs. Jennifer Myron Cassar (Posthumously)	Former Carib Queen of Trinidad and Tobago	Culture and Community Service
Miss Gloria Dallsingh	Mas Designer	Culture
Mr. Edmund Jackson Pouchet	Swim Coach	Sport
Mr. Satyernand Seemungal	Attorney-at-Law	Community Service

HUMMINGBIRD MEDAL (BRONZE) - For loyal and devoted service to Trinidad & Tobago

Mr. Devendra Boodoram (Posthumously)	Prisons Officer II	Public Service
Mr. Thaddeus Caraballo	Police Officer	Gallantry
Mr. Augustus Castle	Facilities Manager	Gallantry
Mr. Jeremy Lewis	Coast Guard	Gallantry
Mr. Akil Melville	Fire Fighter	Gallantry
Mr. Kwasi Robinson	Local Economic	Gallantry

THE PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL OF MERIT (GOLD) - For outstanding and meritorious service to Trinidad & Tobago

Dr. Cyril Anthony Collier	Senior Lecturer University of Trinidad and Tobago	Education/Culture
Dr. William Dhanessar	Medical Doctor – Oncologist	Medicine/Public Service
Mr. Shastri Maharaj	Artist/Teacher Former Curriculum Co-ordinator in Visual and Performing Arts	Art
Dr. Jasmine Stella Ramcharan	Paediatrician	Child Development/ Public Service
Colonel Patrick Eustace Taylor	Reinsurance Executive	Community Service/ Youth Development
Mr. L. Anthony Watkins	Consultant	Public Service
Dr. Sister Phyllis Wharfe	Project Director	Education and the Empowerment of Young Women

MEDAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN (GOLD) - For Outstanding Contribution to the Development of Women's Rights and Issues in Trinidad and Tobago

Ms. Marilyn Barker-Duncan and Ms Onika Mars	Professor of Gender Cultural Studies	Development of Women
Professor Patricia Mohammed Ms Asiya Mohammed	President and Founder of Woman of Substance Tobago Professor of Gender Cultural Studies Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Conflict Women Limited	Development of Women Development of Women Development of Women



Top left: Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes with recipient of Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Awardee Professor Hollis Urban Liverpool 'Chalkdust'. **Bottom left:** Humming Bird Medal Silver recipients (from left) John Ricardo Cassar (received for Jennifer Myron Cassar), Edmund Jackson Pouchet and Satyernand Seemungal. **Main image:** Humming Medal Gold Awardees. L-R (front row) Mr Peter Peña, President of Trinidad and Tobago Association of Retired (Responsible) Persons, Dr. Maura Imbert, Norma Blizzard Innis, Professor Aftab Khan, Cathryn Kelshall and Dr Lesley Ann Roberts.

PRIME MINISTER DR KEITH ROWLEY MEETS WITH THE DIASPORA



On May 31st 2019 the Prime Minister Dr the Honourable Keith Rowley addressed nationals in London at the Amba Hotel Marble Arch. Also present at the meeting were the Honourable Stuart Young, Minister of National Security, Communications and Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, the Honourable Franklin Khan, Minister of Energy and Energy Industries, Senator the Honourable Alyson West, Minister in the Ministry of Finance and High Commissioner Orville London. During his hour long address, Dr Rowley updated the audience on the state of affairs in Trinidad and Tobago; the challenges facing the country and the Government's efforts to minimise the negative impact, while keeping the country in a positive development path. The address was followed by an open forum which went well past the scheduled time, as the Prime Minister responded to every contribution from the highly engaged nationals.



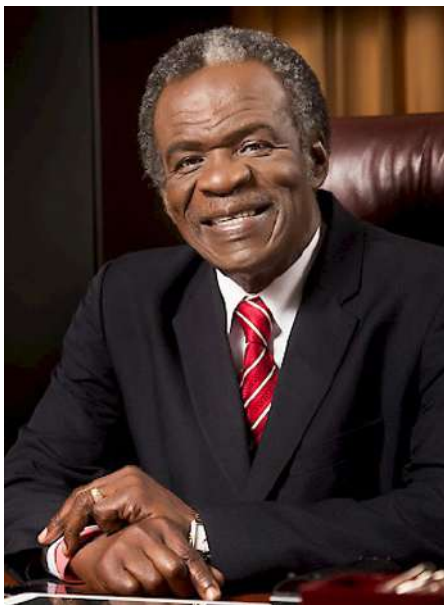
1) Prime Minister Dr the Honourable Keith Rowley, Honourable Stuart Young, Minister of National Security, Communications and Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister and High Commissioner Orville London, 2-3) A cross section of the nationals who raised points during the Prime Minister's Q&A, 4) A portion of the crowd at the Prime Minister's Meeting, 5) Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley is greeted by Trinidad and Tobago nationals at the meeting in the AMBA Hotel

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY ORVILLE LONDON

We are living in interesting times. Here, in the United Kingdom, the country is in election mode for the third time in just over four years. Brexit will dominate the campaign as it has dominated the headlines in recent times but there is no certainty that when the results are announced, the Brexit conundrum will be any closer to resolution, more than three years after the referendum that mandated the country's departure from the European Union. The uncertainty and the unpredictability inherent in the Brexit impasse continue to constrain economic growth in the United Kingdom. The pound remains weak, investment is sluggish, consumer confidence is low and companies are under increasing pressure, even to survive. The economic challenges were highlighted in the starkest manner recently, when the century old Thomas Cook Agency went into administration. The impact on our tourism sector was immediate, with Tobago losing a significant percentage of its bookings for the next tourist season. The United Kingdom remains Tobago's major tourism market, and the sector could be further depressed if, in the face of uncertainty, UK citizens become even more cautious in their utilisation of disposable income.

On the international stage, we are witnessing the weakest global growth in a decade. There is little progress in the easing of trade tensions among some of the major players, giving rise to fears of another global recession. In the Caribbean, devastating natural disasters and other negative impacts of climate change; decisions and actions related to correspondence banking and de-risking; growing protectionism within some of the developed countries; gang violence, drug trafficking and increasing crime related activities are just some of the challenges with which the highly vulnerable states in the region have to grapple.

In Trinidad and Tobago, the rents from the energy sector are no longer as



Pictured: His Excellency Orville London, High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

available for use as an economic buffer and the decision makers have had to make the necessary adjustments. Despite the introduction of new legislation and the efforts of the energised police service, the murder rate remains high and the fear



of crime still pervades. The Venezuelan crisis continues to impact the country and some individuals are experiencing difficulty in adjusting to the new social and economic realities.

Many of these problems are being addressed but we must accept that most of them cannot be resolved in the short term and there are difficult decisions still to be taken and sacrifices still to be made. Regardless of where we live, nationals of Trinidad and Tobago must be prepared to make some sacrifice and to make some contribution, during this recovery period. In an environment where the future will remain unpredictable and challenging, one of the variables on which we should be able to depend is the character of our people, regardless of where they live. It is our commitment, our resilience and the quality of our collaboration that will be among the major factors which determine how our country copes, in the ensuing years.

When the feeling is genuine, distance does not matter. Members of the Trinidad and Tobago diaspora who love their country must be just as committed to its development, as nationals “back home”. I must commend organisations like the Trinidad and Tobago Health Care UK forum and individuals like Andrew Ramroop, Michele Beute and Anne Fridal who have been utilising their time, expertise, talent and resources in the development of their country and its people. I am aware that there are other members of the diaspora who are contributing in diverse ways and I am hoping that, in the ensuing months, there would be a significant increase in the number of nationals who are “walking the talk” in their commitment to making a positive difference in Trinidad and Tobago.

Pictured: High Commissioner London with Mr Mick Kinley, CEO - Australian Maritime Safety Authority and High Commission London speaking with attendees and presenters at the Law & Multicultural Medicine Colloquium.

THE LONDON PRESENTS LETTERS OF CREDENCE IN GERMANY

Non Resident Ambassador Orville London presented Letters of Credence to the President of the Federal Republic of Germany Frank-Walter Sternmeier, on Thursday 05 September, 2019. Ambassadors from The Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Barbados and Curaçao also presented their Credentials on the same day, but in separate ceremonies. During the brief discussion after the formal presentation, President Sternmeier displayed interest in climate change, the impact of Brexit on Caribbean countries, and trade relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and Trinidad and Tobago.

During his visit to Germany, Ambassador Orville London paid courtesy calls on a number of officials including HE Archbishop Dr. Nikola Eterovic, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps; Mr Ingo Winkelmann, Head of Division, Federal Foreign Office; Mr Mark Heinzl, Head



At Left: His Excellency Orville London and President of the Federal Republic of Germany Frank-Walter Sternmeier; **Top:** HE Orville London, Mrs Brigid London with officials from the Office of the President.

Photos courtesy the Office of President of the Federal Republic of Germany

of Division for North America and Latin America, and Ambassador Marian Schuegraf, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, Federal Foreign Office. Discussions were held with Mr Howard Kroch, the long serving Honorary Consul for Trinidad and Tobago, based in Hamburg. London also met with Mr Francis Hee Hong and two other representatives of the Trinidad and Tobago German



Association in Berlin, Germany. They reported on recent initiatives to foster closer and more consistent collaboration, not only among the members of the Trinidad and Tobago diaspora in Germany, but with individuals and organisations in Trinidad and Tobago. London pledged the support of the London Mission in all of the group's activities.



Pictured: Mr Elston Baird, Immigration Attaché receiving a farewell token from HE Orville London

There was consensus among his colleagues that Immigration Attaché Elston Baird had made an outstanding contribution during his tour of duty at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, in London. At the farewell function held in his honour, Baird was lauded for his professionalism, his insistence that members of his unit

THE HIGH COMMISSION BIDS FAREWELL TO MR ELSTON BAIRD, IMMIGRATION ATTACHÉ

adhere to the highest standards and his willingness to share his experience and expertise.

In his remarks at the farewell function, High Commissioner Orville London noted that “the Immigration Unit was the face of the Mission” and complimented Baird for ensuring that “while there will be issues at times, I was always confident that, with Mr Baird in charge, the image of the Immigration Unit and the Mission will not be compromised”. He also commended Baird for his role as the “unofficial Chairman of the Mission” and recalled the number of times that he had chaired important sessions, including Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley’s meetings with the diaspora in the United Kingdom. Baird ended his UK stint August 3rd, 2019 and has

resumed duties with the Immigration Division in Trinidad.

Until a replacement officer is posted at the Mission, London said that the Mission is fortunate to have a highly capable and committed officer in Mrs Alicia Acres-Youksee who is supported by a small team of dedicated and loyal staff members. He noted that, although they are functioning in a pressure filled environment, they continue to deliver at the high quality level which has become the standard at the Mission. He urged members of the diaspora and visitors to the Immigration Unit to come with the mindset that the officers want to collaborate with them in resolving their issues and that they have the knowledge and experience to treat with almost any relevant situation.

DIVING DUO

Written by **DUANE KENNY**

Looking to pair snorkeling with a new discovery all in one day? Well, then Tobago is the perfect place.

STORE BAY

Snorkel and dine. Our first stop is for the foodies, so snorkel first, then eat after. Store Bay has great snorkeling on the side of the bay, near to the rock cliffs. You can also go along the other side of the beach and swim along Coco Reef's breakwater to discover a plethora of fish.



BUCCOO REEF

Snorkel and soak. Your next spot is the Coral Garden which you can access by Glass Bottom Boat. The Garden is expansive, so explore a bit to find the best spot. Also remember that the less wind and the lower the tide, the better the spot for snorkeling. Afterwards it's back in the boat for a quick ride to the calm, aquamarine waters of the Nylon Pool for a relaxing soak.

CASTARA

Snorkel and refresh at the waterfalls. Castara is a quiet fishing village, with turquoise waters and you can often spot the southern grey sting rays swimming in the bay; the coral life gets more diverse as you swim towards the point. If you are feeling adventurous, swim around the point into Emerald Bay for a spectacular reef but be careful and make sure you go with a swim buddy.

CHARLOTTEVILLE

Snorkel and cruise. Charter a boat from Charlotteville to the nearby Pirate's Bay and Lover's Bay for the day. Pirate's Bay has great snorkeling on both corners of the beach, plus it is one of the most picturesque bays in the Caribbean. A little further down the coast lies the pink sands and deep blue waters of Lover's Bay, another great place for snorkeling.

Just remember to bring a picnic basket and trash bags so that these beautiful beaches remain as pristine as ever.

SPEYSIDE

Snorkel and birdwatch. Book a Glass Bottom boat cruise from the parking lot of Blue Waters Inn. Your first stop is Angel Reef, where you can enjoy a drift snorkel over the amazing coral. The boat will then take you to Little Tobago where after a short hike on the small island you'll have a chance to see the dueling Tropic and Frigate birds.



INS & OUTS OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO 2019
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THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES BIDS FOR COMMONWEALTH RETURN

The Republic of Maldives has applied to be readmitted into the Commonwealth. The country had been a member of the Commonwealth since July 1982, but withdrew from the organisation in October 2016, when its former president objected to international criticism of its human rights record.

Earlier this year, High Commissioner Orville London hosted a courtesy call from Her Excellency Dr Farah Zaizal, Ambassador of the Republic of Maldives, who had been seeking the support of member countries for her country's application. Also applying for reentry is Zimbabwe which withdrew from the Commonwealth in 2013, under the Mugabe regime. Both

Picture: (L-R) Mr Yameen Shahid, Counsel to the Ambassador, HE Dr Farah Faizal and HE Orville London.



applications are now being evaluated and if they were to be successful, the Presidents of the two countries would join other leaders for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, in June 2020. At

present, the Commonwealth has a total membership of 53 countries, with a combined population of 2.4 billion, almost a third of the world's population.

UK FOREIGN COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OFFICIAL MEETS HIGH COMMISSIONER

Dr Emma Hennessy, the newly appointed Deputy Head of the US, Canada and the Caribbean Department in the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, paid a courtesy call on High Commissioner Orville London, at the London Mission, on Tuesday 16 April. Discussions focused on a number of topical issues including climate change, disaster preparedness and resilience, criteria for access to ODA funds, derisking and correspondence banking.

Dr Hennessy expressed interest in meeting with the Caricom Heads of Mission Caucus for more in-depth discussions on all relevant issues.



Picture: Dr Emma Hennessy, Deputy Head of the US, Canada and the Caribbean Department in the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and HE Orville London.

DIASPORA DISCUSSIONS ON TOPICAL ISSUES



A number of topical issues were discussed when members of the diaspora in the United Kingdom gathered at the London Mission for the Quarterly Nationals Meeting on Wednesday 28 August. High Commissioner Orville London set the stage with a wide ranging address in which he highlighted the efforts to stem criminal activities in Trinidad and Tobago and the Government’s response to the present economic challenges. He also focused some attention on the situation in the United Kingdom and the impact of Brexit on Trinidad and Tobago and the rest of the Caribbean.



Pictured: Anthony Tang, Yvette Allen and Leela Ramdeen raised points during the Question and Answer segment of the Nationals Meetings.

Speaking just before the Independence Day celebrations, London said, “Whether it is the 7th or the 57th, anniversaries of Independence, like almost any other anniversary, provide opportunities for reflection and rededication, and we, in the United Kingdom, are not too far away to reflect and rededicate. It is, therefore, appropriate for us to revisit Trinidad and Tobago and reflect on the realities as we prepare to celebrate our 57th anniversary of Independence”.

In relation to crime, London said that the situation remains challenging but noted that there are some positive signs. Public confidence in the Police Service had improved and this could lead to more meaningful cooperation between the

citizenry and the communities, with the potential for an enhanced solve rate in major crimes. He also noted that the suite of legislation, including the Bail Bill, the Firearms Bill and the Explain Your Wealth Bill, and harsher penalties for various offences are among the signals that the various decision makers are fighting back.

London spoke to the multi-faceted nature of crime, both on how it developed and how it has to be treated. This phenomenon, he said “is not peculiar to Trinidad and Tobago. In fact, there is a similar situation in the United Kingdom where knife crime is closely linked to youth crime, urban crime and social problems”. He referenced the Glasgow Model which had led to the

halving of the murder rate in just over ten years. That model adopted a public health approach, focusing on prevention activity such as education, enhanced social and recreational opportunities and early intervention, coupled with law enforcement, as necessary. He reiterated his appeal to members of the diaspora that, although they had a responsibility to recognise the challenges, they should not “sensationalise the crime situation and thus fuel a perception of our country that is much more negative than it is in reality”.

London reported that Trinidad and Tobago had achieved some successes in its recovery efforts after the serious downturn in the economy. He noted that, in the short term, prospects to diversify the economy will remain limited and the energy sector will remain the key driver. He listed some of the recent measures to resuscitate the industry and the impact on the economy but admitted that challenges remain and sacrifices will still have to be made. London said that, in the present scenario, there are opportunities for nationals in the United Kingdom to become more involved in the recovery process, “whether it is investment, purchase of property, vacations in Trinidad and Tobago or even marketing Tobago as a unique tourist destination”.

Stating that positive achievements must

be celebrated, he reminded the audience that Trinidad and Tobago had hosted the 2019 Carifesta and “all reports indicate that it was a fantastic experience of which all nationals, wherever they are, should be proud”. He congratulated the Trinidad and Tobago Healthcare UK Forum (TTHUF) on gaining Registered Charity Status. He commended the determination and resilience displayed by the organisation and expressed confidence that it will achieve its stated objectives of strengthening links and enhancing collaboration with health care organisations and officials in Trinidad and Tobago. He also commended Trinidad and Tobago born attorney

Michele Beute for her continuing role in facilitating a process which could provide opportunities for nurses and doctors from Trinidad and Tobago to be employed by NHS Trusts in the United Kingdom.

In concluding his remarks, London said, “The London Mission and this High Commissioner remain committed to a meaningful collaboration with the diaspora as we leverage the power and potential of Trinidad and Tobago nationals living in the United Kingdom to the benefit of our beloved country”.



Pictured: A national who raised points during the Question and Answer segment of the Nationals Meeting.

TOBAGO CRUSOE FEATURED AT WINDRUSH EVENT

Veteran Calypsonian and former Trinidad and Tobago national Calypso Monarch, Tobago Crusoe was the feature artiste on Thursday June 20, when the Voice Newspaper and Jamaica National newspapers hosted a reception to “acknowledge and honour the outstanding contribution of the Windrush Generation and their descendants, to the British society”. The high profile event was held at the State Rooms of the Speaker’s House in the UK House of Commons and the attendees responded enthusiastically to Tobago Crusoe’s rendition of “Get Out”, which he had composed specially for the occasion. In fact, so impressed was the chairperson of the proceedings that she challenged members of the audience to contribute towards ensuring that the selection is recorded and given the widest possible circulation. High Commissioner Orville London who attended the event, said that all of Trinidad and Tobago should be proud of Tobago Crusoe who, over the decades, has continued to promote the traditional calypso art form throughout the United Kingdom and a number of other European countries.

The event at the UK House of Commons was one of scores being held across the country to celebrate Windrush week. One of the highlights of the week was the announcement of the site for the erection of “a monument honouring the tremendous contribution of the Windrush generation”. Baroness Floella Benjamin who came from Trinidad to the United Kingdom, with her parents, in 1960, is Chair of the Windrush Commemoration Committee, charged with the responsibility to have the monument designed and constructed. In making the announcement that the monument will be erected at the Concourse of the London Waterloo station, she explained that “Having a Windrush



Above: Tobago Crusoe, **At Left:** Baroness Floella Benjamin. **Photos:** The Voice Online

monument located at Waterloo Station where thousands of Windrush pioneers - including children like myself - first arrived in London, will be a symbolic link to our past, as we celebrate our future.

See video link: <http://bit.ly/TobagoCRUSOE-getout>

CARICOM DAY CELEBRATIONS IN LONDON



1) High Commissioner London with T&T High Commission staff members (from left) Rasheeda Morton, Rhonda Cox, Michael Graham, Beverley Awonaya and Donna Philip Forde, 2) Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Khaled Al-Duwaisan, Ambassador for Kuwait, 3) HE Perla Perdomo, High Commissioner for Belize, 4) (L-R) HE Kevin Isaac of St Kitts and Nevis, HE Guy Mayers of St Lucia, Dean of the Caribbean region and HE Cenio Lewis of St Vincent, 5) Commonwealth-Secretary General Baroness Patricia Scotland, 6) Mr Wilfred Adderley II, Second Secretary/Vice Consul, The Bahamas High Commission, 7) Heritage Social Arts & Dance Group, 8) Visitors at the T&T booth and 9) A cross section of other Caricom countries represented in the High Commission

Nationals from throughout the region joined Caricom Heads of Mission Caucus in the United Kingdom for a reception at the IMO Headquarters in London on Thursday 04 July, in celebration of Caricom Day.

The event featured addresses from Commonwealth Secretary-General Baroness Patricia Scotland; Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Khaled Al-Duwaisan, Ambassador for Kuwait; and Dean of the Caribbean region, HE Cenio Lewis of St Vincent. Also addressing the gathering were HE Kevin Isaac of St Kitts and Nevis, the outgoing chairman of the Caricom Heads of Mission Caucus in the United Kingdom and his successor, HE Guy Mayers of St Lucia. The varied programme which was chaired by Trinidad and Tobago

High Commissioner Orville London, also included a Caricom Day poem written by HE Dr Kevin Isaac and read by HE Milton Innis of Barbados; a song performed by the Young Diplomat of the Year, Wilfred Adderley II of the Bahamas and an energetic dance routine from Heritage Roadshow, an East

London based group of youngsters, most of whom are of Caribbean heritage.

The highly successful event climaxed with rum tasting and the viewing of the displays from the Caricom countries represented in the United Kingdom.



TOBAGO HONEY HIGHLIGHTED AT BEE GARDEN PARTY



Above: Commonwealth Secretary General Patricia Scotland with Tobago beekeeper Gladstone Solomon. **At right:** Gladstone Solomon speaking with the Duchess of Cornwall about his Bee products. **Below:** High Commissioner London views the honey products on display. **Bottom right:** Gladstone Solomon with his range of honey products. **Photos courtesy Gladstone Solomon**

Tobago beekeeper Gladstone Solomon was a special invitee to the Bee Garden Party, at Marlborough House, in London, on 12th June. The event was organised to raise funds for Bees for Development, a UK-based charity helping some of the world's poorest people become self-sufficient, through beekeeping. Solomon, a Bees for Development Trustee, was invited to attend the event to promote beekeeping in Trinidad and Tobago. He took the opportunity to show off many of the country's unique bee products to the Duchess of Cornwall, Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland, Trinidad and Tobago High Commissioner Orville London and other guests at the high profile event.

Her Royal Highness spent many minutes finding out about how beekeeping is done "Trinidad and Tobago style", and how important the industry is for both honey producers and growers of fruit and

vegetables who depend on pollination for good crops. She accepted a gift of value-added beekeeping products; hair shampoo and conditioner, from the Trinidad and Tobago booth.

During his two week visit to the United Kingdom, Solomon participated in a three day queen rearing exercise in Essex and a Sustainable Livelihood Workshop in Wales. He also attended

the Three Counties Agricultural Show at Worcestershire and successfully completed the British Beekeepers Association Basic Assessment. He is confident that the knowledge and experience gained on his visit to the United Kingdom will enable him to contribute even more effectively to the continued development of the bee industry in Trinidad and Tobago.



DOUBLE RECOGNITION FOR ASIYA MOHAMMED

In just three months, Gender and Human Rights Activist Asiya Mohammed, received two high profile awards for “her exceptional voluntary service supporting survivors of sexual and domestic violence.” On 24 June 2019, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II recognised Mohammed, as the 100th Commonwealth Point of Light.

The Commonwealth Points of Light Awards celebrate inspirational acts of volunteering across the Commonwealth and help inspire others to make their own contribution to tackling some of the greatest social challenges of our time. As part of the legacy of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in London in 2018, Her Majesty the Queen - as Head of the Commonwealth, is thanking inspirational volunteers across the 53-member Commonwealth for the difference they are making in their communities and beyond, by recognising one volunteer from each Commonwealth country, each week in the two years following the summit.

Mohammed is the founder of Conflict Women which helps survivors of sexual and domestic abuse rebuild their lives through entrepreneurship.

Drawing on her own experience, Asiya has inspired and helped other survivors to achieve financial independence by offering free training in jewellery making and business development, enabling



Top: Asiya was presented with her award by British High Commissioner in Trinidad and Tobago, Tim Stew MBE. Photo: British High Commission, Port of Spain. Above: Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes with Medal for the Development of Women (Gold) Recipients (L-R) Asiya Mohammed, Professor Patricia Mohammed, Ms. Onika Mars and Ms. Marilyn Barker-Duncan. Photo: Office of President

them to start their own businesses. In the past five years, Conflict Women has trained over 70 women, 25 of whom now draw a regular monthly income with their hand-crafted jewellery. Last year, Conflict Women, with the support of the British High Commission in Trinidad and Tobago, launched a new micro-finance loan project, Multiply, providing

executive coaching and access to capital for survivors' businesses in Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados and Jamaica.

There was more recognition for Mohammed and her contributions on Republic Day, 24 September, when she received the Medal for Development of Women-Gold, from HE Paula-Mae Weekes, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. The Medal for the Development of Women is awarded to any person for outstanding contribution to the development of women's rights and issues. After accepting the award, Mohammed posted, “Much gratitude to Allah, Master of the Universe, my spiritual team, our beautiful survivors, our amazing Conflict Women team, and my best friends and family who are there through thick and thin. The extremely difficult moments prepared me to cathedral happy moments even more and I am truly blessed”.

Mohammed expressed similar sentiments after receiving the Commonwealth Points of Light Award when she said that she was “humbled and honoured” by the recognition of her body's relentless work to financially empower rape and domestic-violence survivors so they live free of abuse and violence. Our work, she continued, “is often fraught with challenges, but through it all our survivors have remained my heroes, and this award is dedicated to them. They teach me resilience, grace, courage, and optimism in the midst of conflict.”

PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FOR TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO BORN AUTHOR



Claire Adam has won the 12th annual Desmond Elliott Prize, the “UK's most prestigious award for first-time novelists” Adam took home the £10,000 Prize for her debut novel, Golden Child, beating fellow shortlisted authors, Michael Donkor (Hold) and Anna Mackmin (Devoured).

Set against the backdrop of the colourful but dangerous Trinidad of Adam's own childhood, Golden Child tells of Clyde Deyalsingh's relationship with his sons Peter and Paul, twins who are in no way alike – the one driven, academically gifted; the other, a dreamer, indecipherable. When the ‘misfit’, Paul, is abducted, Clyde must race to save the son he has never understood.

It was chosen as the most outstanding debut of the year by a trio of judges chaired by Alan Hollinghurst, author of *The Line of Beauty* (2004 Man Booker Prize winner), who was joined by literary editor of *The Times*, Robbie Millen, and managing director of the Booksellers Association, Meryl Halls. In a speech at the prize ceremony, Allan Hollinghurst said, "The Desmond Elliott Prize is about more than winning: it's about attending to, and tending for, the newcomers - and over its twelve years, it has shone the warmth of its attention on a marvellous body of work, creating a kind of informal community of the strongest new talent, many of whom have already gone on to do even finer things".

He continued, "Our 2019 winner Claire Adam demonstrates masterly control as



Pictured: Claire Adam Photo: desmondelliottprize.org.uk

she details the tragic fracturing of a family; and the beauty and the latent violence of her Trinidadian setting are miraculously vivid. Her novel combines the harsh force

of a fable with the unforgettable strangeness of real life and – like all the very best debuts – *Golden Child* gives a sudden and enlightening view of both a new subject and a new mind."

The Chairman of the Prize's Trustees, Dallas Manderson said, "My fellow Trustees and I are delighted to present the judges' choice of winner, *Golden Child*. This electrifying psychological thriller contains a vibrancy and life that we know Desmond Elliott would have greatly admired. It is our hope that winning the Prize will help cement Claire Adam's reputation as an up-and-coming star and support her in the writing of a second novel which equals, if not surpasses, her deeply impressive first offering."

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY ADRIAN LEONCE PAYS COURTESY CALL ON HIGH COMMISSIONER ORVILLE LONDON

Adrian Leonce, Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Public Utilities, paid a courtesy call on His Excellency Orville London at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission in London, on Monday 30 September. Leonce was in transit from Kampala, Uganda, where he attended the 64th annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Association meeting. Also included in the Trinidad and Tobago contingent at the CPA meeting were the Speaker of the House, Honourable Brigid Annisette-George, Opposition Senator Wade Mark and Acting Clerk of the House, Brian Caesar.

Pictured: The Honourable Adrian Leonce, Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Public Utilities with His Excellency Orville London



CARIBBEAN SKILLS BANK LAUNCHED

A number of Caricom High Commissioners were among the audience at the British Library in London, on Friday June 07, for the launch of the Caribbean Diaspora Professional & Skills Bank. The major objective of the initiative, according to an official release, is to "harness the professional skills of the Caribbean Diaspora to provide support contacts and networks as a resource for the Caribbean".

Members of the Caribbean Diaspora in the United Kingdom are being encouraged to provide information on their particular skills set "to help achieve closer collaboration and joint action to enhance the Caribbean region and to facilitate the building of alliances with key regional and international partners".

This sharing of information will not only be particularly critical in disaster



Pictured: Debbie Ransome Director at the Caribbean Diaspora Skills Directory CIC. Photo courtesy Caribbean Diaspora Skills

response work but will facilitate a wide range of activities at local, national and international levels, including the enhancement of opportunities for business development.

The Caribbean Diaspora Skills Directory CIC management team of Trinidad and Tobago national Debbie Ransome, Bertram Leon and Daniel Mullins is confident that, with the commitment,

passion and loyalty to home country displayed by the Caribbean Diaspora over the years, the project will bring optimum benefit to the region.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO NATIONALS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE

Patriotism, talent and camaraderie were very much on display when members of the diaspora congregated at St. Peter's Eaton Square, in London, on Sunday 1st September, for their celebration of the 57th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

High Commissioner Orville London read the President's Independence Address at the well attended Interfaith Thanksgiving Service and the homily was delivered by Father Henderson George who based his remarks on the theme, "Focused, Determined and United, as We Face the Future". Mr Adem Zein Ghany of the Muslim Community, Ms Natasha Clarke representing the Spiritual Baptists, Ms Omadaye Sawh of the Hindu Community and Deputy High Commissioner Jenny Thompson representing the Christians, shared prayers and readings on behalf of their respective faiths.

The congregation was captivated by the magnificent voice of internationally acclaimed Dramatic Mezzo-Soprano Anne Fridal, and was further entertained by Reverend Mark David



from the Church of the Open Bible, Siparia. Calypsonian D'Alberto, with his rendition of the Lord Shorty classic "Watch out My Children" set the stage for the perennially popular Tobago Crusoe who climaxed the cultural offerings with his special Windrush composition.

After the official ceremony, nationals and other guests shared greetings and snacks in the foyer of the church where they were further entertained by pannist Brent Holder MBE. High Commissioner London said that he was heartened by the sentiments of those nationals who expressed their satisfaction with the afternoon's proceedings, while reaffirming their commitment to Trinidad and Tobago. London added that he was "proud of the staff members at the Mission who had succeeded in organising this meaningful event in such a professional manner".

The nationals were also well represented at the Westminster Abbey on Monday 02 September, for the Evensong Service at which special prayers were offered for the country, its leaders and its people.

1) Flag Bearer Ms Alicia Acres-Youksee, Immigration Attaché leads the Procession of the Celebrants down the aisle, 2) The Celebrants representing the Christian, Hindu, Spiritual Shouter Baptist and Muslim community, 3) The Reverend Ralph Williamson, Vicar at St Peter's Eaton Square, 4) A cross section of the congregation at the Interfaith Service.



1) Mr Adem Zein Ghany, 2) Ms Omadaye Sawh, 3) Father Henderson George, 4) Ms Natasha Clarke, 5) Tobago Crusoe performed a medley of patriotic calypsoes, 6) De Alberto 7) Reverend Mark David and Ms Anne Fridal, 8) Canon John Metivier, 9) A cross section of the congregation at the Interfaith Service, 10) Ms Ameena Tenny and Ms Rhonda Cox, 11-13, 15 & 16) Congregation gathers outside for refreshments, 14) Mr Brent Holder MBE, 17) (L-R) Mr Anthony Tang, M's Beverley Awonaya, Ms Elsie Lakhan and national.

CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW GOLD FOR TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Resilience, commitment and artistry were the factors mainly responsible for the Trinidad and Tobago team's gold medal success at the Royal Horticultural Society Chelsea Flower Show in London, earlier this year. Themed "Rhythm of Our People", the colourful Trinidad and Tobago presentation not only gained plaudits from the judges but was popular among the thousands of patrons at what is one of the biggest flower shows in Europe.

Speaking to nationals at the Quarterly diaspora meeting, shortly after the announcement of the award, members of the delegation explained that they had to surmount financial and logistic challenges as they struggled to make the trip to the United Kingdom in time for the show. They reported that, with very limited support from the private and public sectors, members had to utilise their own funds to finance the trip. They expressed the hope that with their success at this year's flower show and the obvious exposure given to Trinidad and Tobago, they will receive more support for the 2021 edition of the Chelsea Flower Show.

Members of the Trinidad and Tobago delegation at the 2019 event were Bernard Beckles, Anthony Tang Kai, Joan Hampton, Nigel Lewis Cornwall and Shane Valentine.



Top: Mr Naraindra Maharaj with members of the T&T delegation Bernard Beckles, Anthony Tang Kai, Joan Hampton and Shane Valentine. **Middle (L-R)** Bernard Beckles speaking with Ms Beverley Awonaya, patrons admiring the colourful Trinidad and Tobago presentation and 5th member of the T&T delegation Nigel Lewis Cornwall with High Commissioner London, **Bottom:** Trinidad and Tobago presentation "Rhythm of Our People". **For more photos of the T&T Presentation at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, please visit: bit.ly/RHSFlowerShow2019pics**

LAW AND MULTICULTURAL MEDICINE COLLOQUIUM AT THE LONDON MISSION



Pictured: Dr. Gertrude Shotte (PhD), Mr. David Stephenson and Ms. Brenda King MBE

Some of the United Kingdom's most outstanding legal practitioners and academics were among the presenters at the Law & Multicultural Medicine Colloquium, held at the Conference Room of the London Mission. This was the second event of the Lord Learie Constantine Educational Series that was successfully launched in Trinidad on 9th March 2019. In his introductory remarks at the

colloquium, High Commissioner Orville London commended Trinidad and Tobago national and retired Coventry Law School Director of Postgraduate Studies, Terrence Brathwaite for "conceptualising the lecture series and coordinating events, both in Trinidad and Tobago and in the United Kingdom, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the elevation of Trinidad and Tobago national and former Government Minister Learie

Constantine's as the first black peer in the House of Lords".

Noting that Lord Learie was an indomitable advocate for the rights of black people in the United Kingdom, London said that "it is appropriate that his name should be associated with a discussion on the Windrush saga which has some of those same elements which impelled Lord Learie to take legal action against the Imperial Hotel, on the grounds of abuse of human rights and racial discrimination, 75 years ago".

The all day colloquium focused on "the legal, psychological, environmental and edu-cultural impact of the Windrush scandal in the Caribbean Community and how the diaspora can address its legacy for the benefit of future generations". The event elicited positive reviews for the quality and range of the discussions and the recommendations which would have emanated. In correspondence to the High Commissioner, one participant noted "The event has to be one of the Caribbean High Commissions highlights for the year; equal parts, inspiring and intellectually stimulating".

Colloquium Speakers (in order of appearance):

- His Excellency Orville London, Trinidad & Tobago's High Commissioner to the UK;
- Dr. Richard Wilson Q.C, Head of Chambers - The 36 Group and Visiting Professor of Law - Coventry Law School, Coventry University;
- Prof. Gus John, UK Social Justice Doyen/Visiting Professor - Coventry University;
- Ms. Jacqueline Mckenzie, Immigration Lawyer - McKenzie Beute and Pope, UK;
- Mr. Martin Forde Q.C, Queen's Counsel and Independent Adviser to the UK Government on the 'Windrush Compensation Scheme' - 1 Crown Office Row, UK;
- Ms. Karen McKenzie, Head of Human Rights - The Commonwealth Secretariat, UK;
- Ms. Dounne Alexander MBE,



Top: Panel Discussion on 'The Windrush Scandal: Socio-legal nuances of a hostile environment' with Dr. Richard Wilson QC, Ms. Jacqueline McKenzie and Mr. Martin Forde Q.C. and Professor Gus John, **Middle:** Dr. Angela Fenwick, Dr. Vindelyn Smith-Hillman and Ms. Lysa Monique Jenkins-Hayden, **Above** High Commissioner London with (from right) Dawn Brathwaite, Tesha Brathwaite, Terrence Wendell Brathwaite (front row) and friend. **At left:** Ms. Karen McKenzie

Founder - GRAMMA'S, UK (GRAMMA'S Herbal Foods);

- Mrs. Dawn Brathwaite, Partner (Healthcare) - Mills & Reeve Solicitors, UK;
- Dr. Erica Mapule McInnis (D.Clin. Psychol.), Director & Principal Clinical Psychologist - Nubia Wellness and Healing, UK;
- Ms. Lysa Monique Jenkins-Hayden, Chief Clinical Director/Diversity Officer and Cultural Movement Psychotherapist - Inspired Therapeutic Solutions, PHL, USA;
- Dr. Angela Fenwick (PhD), Consultant Music Therapist/Director & Founder - Birmingham Centre for Arts Therapies (BCAT), UK;
- Ms. Susan Belgrave, Barrister - 7 Bedford Row and Trustee - British Foundation for The University of the West Indies - BFUWI, UK;
- Ms. Brenda King MBE, Chief Executive - African & Caribbean Diversity (ACD), UK; (ACDiversity)
- Dr. Gertrude Shotte, (PhD), Education Consultant - Middlesex University, UK;
- Mr. David Stephenson, Barrister - Doughty Street Chambers, UK;
- Dr. Courtenay Griffiths Q.C, Queen's Counsel - 25 Bedford Row Chambers, UK;
- Ms. Desiree Artesi, Barrister and Board Member - Thomas More Chambers, UK;
- Mr. Dave Neita, Lawyer, The People's Poet and Director - ELECT, UK;
- Dr. Vindelyn Smith-Hillman, Chief Economist - Law Commission [England & Wales].

RAVE REVIEWS FOR HERO

The Frances-Anne Solomon directed film, HERO - Inspired by the Extraordinary Life and Times of Mr. Ulric Cross., elicited rave reviews when it was shown at the Picture House, Ritzy, in Brixton, on Saturday June 22. The screening which was jointly sponsored by the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission and the Black Cultural Archives attracted a capacity audience whose members expressed their

appreciation, not only for the quality of the production but the insightful and professional, yet sensitive treatment of critical episodes in the history of black people, in the United Kingdom, in Africa and in the Caribbean. After the showing, there was a lively Question and Answer segment which featured the director, Frances-Anne Solomon, Actor, Director and Writer Adjoa Andoh, Dr Jak Beula and Jamaica born James Fairweather, a WW11 RAF veteran.



Above: The Q&A panel at the BFI Southwark, London. At left: Patrons at the preshow reception at Picture House, Ritzy, in Brixton.

In his address, just prior to the start of the screening, High Commissioner Orville London commended “Ms Frances Solomon and all those who would have been involved in not just a labour of love, but of respect, of admiration and of pride”. London said that “he was fascinated by the difference that Ulric Cross has made; in so many places, at so many different times and in so many different ways. He stressed that the story must be taken into the schools, the churches and the communities. Our young people, he contended, “many of

whom feel marginalised, rudderless and even stateless, need to hear this and other stories that demonstrate what people of Caribbean heritage can achieve, in the face of discrimination and racism”.

Screenings continued in cinemas around the United Kingdom, throughout the year.

WINSTON DUKE AND FRANCES-ANN SOLOMON INDUCTED INTO ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS

Tobago born actor Winston Duke (Black Panther, Us) and Canada-based filmmaker Frances-Anne Solomon, who was born to Trinidadian parents, have been invited to join the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the organisation behind the Academy Awards. Solomon, director of Hero Inspired by the Extraordinary Life and Times of Mr Ulric Cross, was invited as part of 842 new members in a group that included Spider-Man actor Tom Holland and singeractress Lady Gaga.

In a Facebook post, Solomon described the invitation as "big, big news!" She thanked American filmmaker Ava

Duvernay, who recently had a massive hit with the Netflix docudrama When They See Us, for nominating and supporting her. Describing Duvernay as “a true trailblazer who is changing the narrative in Hollywood so that women of colour directors are recognized for their talents and skills”, Solomon added, "As chair of the feature film category for the Canadian Screen Awards, I know the responsibility involved in critiquing and judging films for nomination. I look forward to using that experience when voting time comes for the 2020 Oscars!"



Pictured: Winston Duke and Frances-Anne Solomon

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO GROUPS ACTIVE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM



1) Mr Roger James, Chair, Trinidad & Tobago Healthcare UK Forum (TTHUF) and Mr Idi Stuart, President, Trinidad and Tobago Registered Nurses Association, 2-3) TTHUF Annual Curry-Que fundraiser, 4-5) Trinidad & Tobago Association UK's (TTAUK) Annual BBQ Family Lime 6) (Front row left) Ms Barbara Maria Annaemeka and TTAUK President Ms Louise Simmons, (back row) Ms Rosalind Phillips and High Commissioner Orville London.

Trinidad and Tobago groups remain focused on their main objectives to serve the interests of the diaspora and to utilise their talent and expertise in the development of their homeland. In the United Kingdom, author Barbara Maria Annaemeka and Tobago Residents UK official Rosalind Phillips were the featured speakers when the Trinidad and Tobago UK Association commemorated Black History Month at the Association's Headquarters on Saturday 26 October. Annaemeka whose latest publication is "Granddaughter of the Windrush", described some of the factors which would have led to the Black History Month, in the United States, and then in the United Kingdom. Phillips, a health professional and strong advocate for diaspora contribution to Trinidad and Tobago also shared some historical insights and both women expressed the hope that black people will be inspired by the sacrifices and examples of the heroes and heroines of the past as they continue the struggle to develop to their fullest potential.

That theme was supported by High Commissioner Orville London who, in congratulating the organisers and the presenters, stressed the responsibilities of the members in the audience. He

said that, while we will be appalled by the indignities suffered by black people over the centuries, we must remain aware that the race was able to surmount those challenges and not only survive, but develop and even excel. We should not remain mired in the past, he said, but use it to inspire ourselves in treating with our present challenges and crafting a better future. He urged the audience to keep abreast of relevant developments and to liaise more closely with the London Mission, on topical issues.

Meanwhile, the Trinidad and Tobago Health Care UK Forum has strengthened its links to health care institutions in Trinidad and Tobago. The organisation



whose Charity status was approved earlier this year, was recently included in the Ministry of Health's list of Pre-Qualified suppliers. TTHUF has completed its strategic plan for 2019 to 2024 and according to the document, the plan "has been developed in order to utilise the knowledge, skills and expertise of UK-based professionals". The objective is to "work in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, other health care organisations, training institutions, professional and registration bodies, so that the safety and quality of health care can be improved". That commitment was evidenced when TTHUF's Kirt Hunte featured as one of the presenters at the 8th Quadrennial Health Conference, hosted by the Trinidad and Tobago Registered Nurses Association, in conjunction with the Trinidad and Tobago Nurses of America Inc, at the Mt Irvine Bay Resort in Tobago, 20 to 26 October.

The Trinidad and Tobago Association UK will host its annual Christmas Carol Service at the Association Headquarters on Sunday 08 December, and during 2020, both organisations, along with Tobago Residents UK will be organising a number of social and fund raising activities.

ACHIEVEMENTS HIGHLIGHTED AT TTHUF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Speaking at the organisation’s annual general meeting on Sunday 16 November, Roger James, Chair of the Trinidad and Tobago Healthcare UK Forum (TTHUF), noted that although the past year was challenging, there were a number of accomplishments of which all members could be proud. He reported that TTHUF was now a registered charity in the United Kingdom but cautioned that the guidelines were stringent and must be observed if the organisation were to retain its status. James noted that he had visited Trinidad and Tobago in June 2019 when he met with the Chief Executive Officers of three Regional Health Authorities and did a presentation on Healthcare Regulation, at the Nursing Now Conference. In October, another TTHUF official, Kirk Hunte made a presentation at the 8th Quadrennial Nursing Conference in Trinidad. Efforts to strengthen links with health officials and organisations in Trinidad and Tobago will be further intensified, in 2020.



Pictured: TTHUF team. Photo Trinidad and Tobago Healthcare UK Forum

One of TTHUF’s major objectives is “utilising the skills, knowledge and experience of members and other health care professionals to facilitate safer and more effective healthcare in Trinidad and Tobago, the Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries”, and High Commissioner Orville London who is one of the patrons of the organisation, commended the members for their commitment and resilience in the pursuit of that objective.

One highlight of the meeting was an address by Professor Rotimi Jaiyesimi of the Trojan Medical Group. Jaiyesimi shared some of his experiences and pledged to collaborate with the members of TTHUF in devising and implementing strategies for meaningful intervention in the fight to improve healthcare delivery in Trinidad and Tobago and other developing countries.

DAME JOCELYN BURROWS CELEBRATES HER 90TH

Dame Jocelyn Barrow DBE OBE celebrated her 90th Birthday on Wednesday 2 October 2019 at the Kinema, South African High Commission London. Trinidad and Tobago was represented by High Commissioner Orville London, who joined various dignitaries, members of the diaspora and the local community who celebrated her life, long distinguished career and tremendous achievements in the UK. Guests were entertained by calypso greats - De Alberto, Tobago Crusoe and Alexander D Great.

Dame Jocelyn was the first black woman governor of the BBC and founder and deputy chair of the Broadcasting Council. With a range of educational and equal opportunities expertise, she achieved ground-breaking feats such as The Race Relations Act 1968. Dame Jocelyn continues to pursue the equality of everyone’s civil rights. Her name also features on the list of 100 Great Black Britons, identifying her as a permanent feature in black British history.



Top: Dame Jocelyn Barrow DBE OBE with guests, At left: A cross section of the attendees, At right: Dame Barrow with Moira Stuart. Photos: Brian Quavar



1000 Londoners project interview with Dame Burrow <http://bit.ly/DameJocelynBurrows>

TOP AWARD FOR TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO CHOCOLATE

Rosehill Estate Dark Milk received a Gold Award in the Milk Bean to Bar category when the Academy of Chocolate held its presentation function at the French Salon & Drawing Room, Claridge's Brook Street, Mayfair in London, on Monday 22 July. Receiving a bronze award was Tobago Estate Dark in the Dark Bean to Bar Under 90% category.



The highly prestigious event attracted well over one thousand entries from a range of countries including New Zealand, The Philippines, Madagascar, Tanzania, Ghana, USA and the United Kingdom. High Commissioner Orville London was high in praise of estate owner Duane Dove, on whose behalf, he accepted the award. London said that “Trinidad and Tobago should take pride in the achievements of this chocolate entrepreneur whose products continue to garner top awards in competition against the world’s major producers”. We must ensure, he added, “that we maximise the potential of his products and of the cocoa sector in the country”.



Picture: Ms Marie Pierre Moine, an Academy of Chocolate Board Member presenting High Commissioner Orville London with Bronze Award as Simon Parkes, Broadcaster, food writer and journalist looks on.

There was more recognition for Dove's products on 18 November when the Laura Dark Milk 45% took the Silver award at the World Chocolate Award Finals in Guatemala.

OLONI OF ETI-ONI SUPPORTS COLLABORATION ON COCOA



Picture: High Commissioner Orville London, Mrs Brigid London, Her Excellency Mrs Floake Abdulrazaq the First Lady of Kwara State and The Oloni of Eti-Oni, at the Royal Cocoa Festival. **Photo:** Dapo Abati

His Royal Majesty the Oloni of Eti-Oni, has expressed interest in visiting Trinidad and Tobago to hold discussions with relevant decision makers in a bid to enhance collaboration between cocoa producers and chocolate manufacturers in both countries.

Eti-Oni is the oldest cocoa plantation in Nigeria, producing cocoa since 1896. The town in south-west Nigeria is ruled by a monarch bearing the title of Oloni of Eti-ONI. The present incumbent is His Royal

Majesty Oba Dokun Thompson who ascended the throne in 2008. Recently, High Commissioner Orville London was given the honour to chair proceedings when The Oloni and the Friends of Eti-Oni hosted the Annual Royal Cocoa Festival Dinner at the Sofitel Hotel, St James, London.

According to the organisers, the main objective of the dinner was “to create awareness of the origin and value of cocoa and to inculcate a cocoa culture that will

build bridges between cocoa producing regions and consumption in the western world in a manner that will change the cocoa narrative from the current extractive one to an integrated one that takes cognisance of the various potentials for wealth creation along the value chain”.

London echoed those sentiments during his address at the dinner when he said, “I am advocating a strengthening of what I will like to call Cocoa Diplomacy; the creation of a space, an environment where we can share, in formal and informal settings, our challenges, our experiments, our experiences and our solutions”. This is not just about South to South cooperation, London opined, “the conversation has to be extended to producers, consumers and chocolatiers in Europe, the United States, Japan and other markets”.

London said that the Oloni of Eti-Oni had contacted him after the dinner to reaffirm his commitment to forging closer links with Trinidad and Tobago. He indicated his willingness to Trinidad and Tobago in 2020 to hold discussions with relevant stakeholders and decision makers.

TNTGA CELEBRATES TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S INDEPENDENCE IN GERMANY



Above: Enjoying a game of dominoes. **At left:** cross section of attendees. **Below:** Fun activities and Trinidad and Tobago food and drinks being served up. **T&T German Association**

Submitted by **T&T GERMAN ASSOCIATION**

Imbued with a refreshing level of optimism and positivity, and comprised mainly of young, dynamic professionals, the Trinidad and Tobago German Association is determined to forge closer links among nationals living in Germany, while enhancing the level of cooperation between the two countries. Recognising that it faces new and existing challenges within the targeted communities, the organisation whose motto is “Merging cultures, Uniting People”, said in a recent release that “we aim to work with everyone, establish mutually beneficial collaborations, changing and molding the landscape to encourage positive energy and vibes” The release continued, “there are countless opportunities for both nations to benefit from each other's diversity in culture, education, sports, travel, music and other resources just to name a few. We envision working closely with consulates, embassies, T&T government, German Embassy, T&T corporate world, universities, and other interested parties to achieve our goals”

Future plans include “the making of documentaries showcasing the history of both German and T&T nationals who are our ‘legendary cultural ambassadors’ and organising various exchange programs, workshops and events involving and showcasing Trinidad and Tobago sports, culture, food, travel,

music, business and many more activities”

On August 31st, members of the diaspora in Germany celebrated the 57th anniversary of Trinidad and Tobago's independence in a public park, in Berlin. One participant noted that “it was a warm and sunny day and if you closed your eyes you could imagine that you were in sweet T&T on the Savannah grass, and not thousands of miles away from home in Germany”.

There was a fantastic turnout for the event which was dubbed a Famalay Picnic Lime. According to the report, “people made their favorite dishes to share and the picnic spread was beyond delicious, with homemade dishes like oxtail stew, macaroni pie, mango/pineapple chow, aloo pie and doubles! Drinks were flowing, and naturally soca and calypso music were playing. It was a family friendly event with activities like face painting, tattoos, All



Fours and dominoes. Nationals and their guests from Berlin, Hamburg, Hannover, Leipzig and even Sweden joined the celebrations; with friends from Barbados and Grenada, adding the Caribbean flavour. The celebrations climaxed with a party at which one of the featured deejays was from Trinidad and Tobago”.

Stay connected and be a part of our journey! @TnTGermanAssociation find us, like us, share us!

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Email: tntga2018@gmail.com



CARIBBEAN MUSIC FESTIVAL IN GERMANY



Above: a national flying the flag
At left: Kes the Band performing on stage
Bottom left: Patrons play a game of Jenga,
Below: The founders of BonnFire Konata Alleyne and Bo Dahl, Soca dance workshops and Iwer George performing in the crowd.
Photos courtesy Emurgy Entertainment

Submitted by **KONATA ALLEYNE, BONN FESTIVAL**

The new BonnFire Festival was the first ever event to showcase Caribbean culture in the small town of Bad Honnef, Germany. For its inaugural year, the festival attracted close to 400 cosmopolitan visitors and included several elements of Caribbean lifestyle such as music, carnival arts, island cuisine, and dance.

The event took place on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd June at The Blau Sau. The open air space, dotted with old military artifacts, London buses, fire engines and even a helicopter, was the perfect location to host an event of this kind. BonnFire was blessed with 35° weather which set the stage for an amazing outdoor experience, including quirky games, live entertainment, arts, craft and food stalls or simply hanging out with friends in the sunny lounge areas. Carnivalista and Ripe



were among the multiple vendors selling Caribbean influenced products such as clothing, jewellery and carnival wear. The food stalls were masterfully catered by celebrity Caribbean chef Hasan De Four. His creations of authentic Caribbean cuisine encompassed traditional Indo-Trinidadian rotis and Jamaican jerk chicken with rice and peas.

The health and wellness section, a major hit at the festival, introduced patrons to artistes like international dance queen Bambaii, who hosted the soca and dancehall dance workshops for the event. The festival also housed daily yoga classes and massage therapies in an indoor spiritual getaway. Bonnfire would not be a festival without world class music. The event was action packed, with thirteen bands, popular singers and deejays from many of the Caribbean countries, including Cuba and the French West Indies providing the entertainment. Distinguished headliners such as Kes the Band, Iwer George and Anthony B put on awe-inspiring performances. However, it was not all about the headliners, as Afro-Beats, the upcoming Goon Maan and Man Like Stunna “pumped up” the crowd with their energy while London based band WARA brought a Latin style to the mix. The event also served as a showcase for exciting Afro-European acts, including some homegrown German favourites.

With this combination of genuine heavyweight artists, and a commitment

to providing an authentic Caribbean experience, BonnFire Festival is already viewed as one of the most exciting Caribbean festival newcomers.





Above: Reverend Patricia Stephens

REV. PATRICIA ANNE HYACINTH STEPHENS (1938 – 2019)

Submitted by PROFESSOR GUS JOHN

The late Reverend Patricia Stephens who was born in Gasparillo, Trinidad on October 1st 1938 to Edith and Jerimiah Stephens and died in Hampstead, London on Friday 1st November 2019.

Patricia attended Gasparillo primary School and won a scholarship to St. Joseph's Convent, San Fernando. She attended Digby Stewart Teachers Training College, Roehampton, England. On returning to Trinidad, she joined the Mirror Newspapers as a feature writer, then moved to the Trinidad Guardian & Evening News as a news reporter and Women's Page editor.

Reverend Stephens held a M.Phil in Theology (University of Birmingham), Post Graduate Diploma in Development Planning (University College London) and a BSc (Hons) in Sociology (UCL).

She was ordained as a Spiritual Baptist Priest and appointed Ambassador of the National

Evangelical Spiritual Baptist Archdiocese Inc. in February 1988. Rev Stephens studied Theology at the University of Birmingham and was awarded the Master of Philosophy in 1997 for her seminal study of the Spiritual Baptist Faith and its origins and development in the Caribbean. In 1999, she published her thesis as the authoritative study of the Spiritual Baptist Faith: *The Spiritual Baptist Faith: African New World Religious History, Identity & Testimony*, a book which deserves to be much more widely known and used by members of the Faith worldwide. This influential book not only provides an account of the development of the Spiritual Baptist Faith in the context of colonialism and the plantation system, but as a religion that migrated with the Caribbean diaspora in Europe and North America and serves as a bulwark against racism in much the same way as it fortified the working people of the Caribbean against the ravages of the plantation system and colonial repression. Her favourite saying was: 'if the steel pan is a twentieth century instrument indigenous and unique to the Caribbean, the Spiritual Baptist Faith is its religious equivalent'.

Throughout her time in the UK, she was unflinching in her dedication to the development of the Faith and in building and sustaining organic links between the Faith in the UK and in the English-speaking Caribbean. She founded the now defunct Council of Elders and with Professor Gus John, himself a Bishop in

the Faith, the annual Spiritual Baptist Liberation Celebration to coincide with the national holiday in Trinidad and Tobago to mark that momentous event in the history of the Faith when prohibition of its practice was lifted. They were supported in this by the moral and financial assistance of the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, UK, with the High Commissioner attending or being represented at each annual celebration.

She was also a cultural activist and an active supporter of the Notting Hill Carnival, becoming a Patron of both the Elimu Carnival Band and the Ebony Steel Orchestra. She worked in close partnership with the cultural trailblazers, Pearl Connor Mogotsi and Geraldine Connor, collaborating with the latter in her production of the iconic 'Carnival Messiah'.

She was the recipient of an award for Outstanding and Meritorious Service from the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, London, in September 2004 and a Service Award from the Trinidad and Tobago Association, London, in October 2002 for services rendered to nationals of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Spiritual Baptist community worldwide and the ecumenical community in the UK salute you, great warrior!

TRIBUTE TO LYNETTE GABRIEL

Lynette Gabriel wife of Carl Gabriel and niece of Sterling Betancourt one of the Notting Hill Carnival steel pan pioneers died on 1 August 2019. She came to the UK in 1956 and has always been a part of Carnival as her father was a pannist and her mother a Carnival queen. Her family were founder members of

the Notting Hill Carnival. She and her husband were the artists behind the magnificent wire sculptures and costumes, some of which may be found around both The Tabernacle and The Yaa Centre sites of Carnival Village. Other pieces have been distributed throughout the UK and other countries. After Carl finished bending the

wire, Lynette would decorate the piece, bringing it to life with colours and textures, often using recycled and natural materials.

Lynette shared her and Carl's artistic knowledge while working with young people, teaching them the culture and art forms of Carnival.

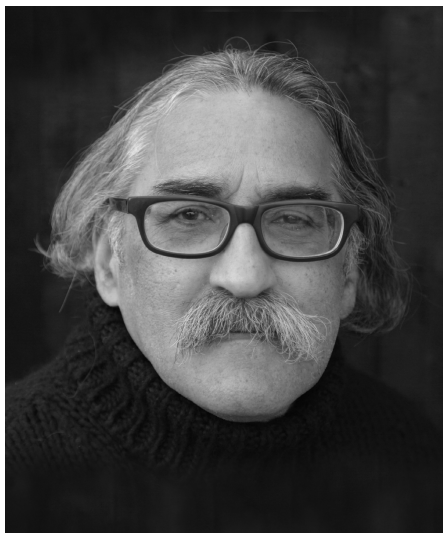
Lynette was a beautiful person who resonated a positive, welcoming energy and was also highly creative, skilled and dedicated. Her beliefs and teachings were a reflection of her passion for her culture and art form,' says Roland Noel, Carnival designer and director. 'Lyn was a lovely, gentle and soft-spoken woman whose family were founder members of the Notting Hill



Carnival,' says Allyson Williams MBE, co-founder of the Mas band. 'She worked continuously, educating young people on the special artistic techniques used in her work and on the significance of the carnival arts.' Tara Hobson, Notting Hill Carnival director, adds: 'Lyn's talent for transforming Carl's structural work and giving texture and colour, bringing art to life, was unique as well as creating beautiful Mas costumes. Lyn was one of the kindest people I have ever met and we will miss her greatly.'

May Her soul rest in Peace

Pictured: Lynette Gabriel. Photo courtesy SocaneWS



Above: Mustapha Matura

TRIBUTE TO MUSTAPHA MATURA (1939 - 2019)

Written by KATIE SEGAL | SOCANEWS

Often written in Trinidadian colloquial speech, Mustapha's plays are evocative of his homeland – although sadly have rarely been staged there.

Taking the UK by storm in the 70s as a prominent writer of colour, from the start Mustapha's play were performed right in the heart of the British establishment – at the Royal Court Theatre, the Institute of Contemporary Arts and later the Royal National Theatre, amongst others – and he was winning awards, too. The latter part of that decade saw the inception, by Mustapha and British director Charlie Hanson, of the Black Theatre Co-operative.

There's a reason I've used Mustapha's first name throughout this article, and not held to the traditional use of a surname.

I have known Mustapha, for as long as I can remember, as an eccentric, moustachioed character frequenting the bars and coffee houses of Portobello, hobnobbing with those of sufficient artistic merit – and those without. Always with a loud greeting and an ironic comment or observation, his indomitable spirit was hard to miss. But now I, for one, will truly miss it.

Mustapha sadly died of a heart attack on 29 October, at the age of 79. He is a great loss to all the communities, both geographic and artistic, to which he belonged. But, of course, most of all to his family, to whom we would like to offer our heartfelt condolence.

<https://socaneWS.com/news/mustapha-matura>



The Mission wishes to invite submissions from the Diaspora on various topics which may include short stories, poems and other interesting tidbits on life here and back home for possible inclusion in the newsletter.

Email: hclondonPACT@foreign.gov.tt

RUDOLPH WALKER HONOURED

The packed auditorium and the glowing tributes from the long list of artistes who took the stage at the Hackney Theatre highlighted the respect and adulation which Trinidad and Tobago born actor, Rudolph Walker has deservedly garnered during his illustrious career. The gala event was organised to celebrate Walker’s 80th birthday and among those who shared their talents, their memories and their sentiments during the four hour long show, were calypsonians Tobago Crusoe and D’Alberto, soprano Anne Fridal, Ebony Steel Band, Richard Blackwood, London Community Gospel Choir and Jermain Jackman.

In his address at the start of the celebrations, High Commissioner Orville London

said, “I have been impressed, not only by Rudolph’s humility and his extraordinary gifts, but by his courage and determination in the pursuit of his objectives, especially those involving young people”. This is a man, London added, who takes greatest pride, not in his own achievements, but in what he can do to inspire others to achieve to their fullest potential”. Surrounded by members of his family, Walker who has featured as an actor on stage, screen and television for more than five decades, expressed his

Top: Sister Monica Tywang, Evangeline Walker, Rudolph Walker and Liam MacDevitt, **At left:** Ebony Steelband, **At right:** Rudolph Walker speaking to the audience. **Photos courtesy The Rudolph Walker Foundation**

appreciation to all those who would have contributed to his development, in often challenging times. Stressing that the society must place more emphasis on the positive contributions of young people, he recommitted to the Rudolph Walker’s Inter School

Drama Award (RWISDA) and other projects which provide opportunities and incentives for disadvantaged youths striving to improve their station in life.



ANNE FRIDAL AND FRIENDS AT LONDON MISSION

The Trinidad and Tobago High Commission Conference Room was the venue when internationally renowned soprano Anne Fridal hosted a “get together” with her friends, admirers and supporters, on Friday 25 October. Fridal who has performed at some of the most prestigious concert halls around the world, shared some of her experiences and even led a “sing along” with her audience.

Highly acclaimed and respected for her operatic and theatrical performances, she has also been hailed for her forays into CalypsOpera, where she imbued renditions by Lord Kitchener, her favourite exponent of the art form, with the operatic flavour.

In his introductory remarks, High Commissioner Orville London lauded Fridal for her extraordinary talents, her commitment to the development of the people of Trinidad and Tobago, and her generosity of spirit. That generosity and empathy were demonstrated as Fridal made available, some Trinidad and Tobago delicacies and organised a raffle, the proceeds of which will be made available for a worthy cause in Tobago.



Top: Anne Fridal and compere Robert Parkinson, **Above:** Johanne Narayn displayed her artwork of the flora and fauna of Trinidad & Tobago. **At left:** High Commissioner Orville London presents a raffle prize to a national.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO CONTESTANT SECOND IN MISS GLOBE PAGEANT

Competing among beautiful and talented contestants from over 50 countries, Trinidad and Tobago's Carla Jean Lares took the first runner up position in the Miss Globe 2019 beauty pageant, held in the southernmost city of Montenegro, in Albania. The competition, according to the organisers, "does not only rank the physical attributes of the contestants but also their personality traits, intelligence, talent and ability to answer judges' questions on various subjects".

The attractive and talented Carla Jean Lares was outstanding in all categories. She placed third in the talent category

with a dance choreographed by Caroline Muraldo and a costume designed and made by South's Carivog Director, Valerie Noriega. Her specially commissioned national costume was sponsored by Mardi Gras Arts' Maria Joseph, one of the foremost Carnival designers in the United Kingdom.

Lares who is involved in a number of community activities including work with Alzheimer's patients and dance workshops with primary and secondary school children, said that she was elated at her success and felt privileged that she was given the opportunity to represent her country at this prestigious international event. She paid tribute to the many

At left: Trinidad and Tobago's Carla Jean Lares, Miss Globe 2019 first runner-up, **Below:** Carla Jean Lares with of Mexico's Alejandra Diaz De Leon Soler, Miss Globe 2019 winner. **Photos courtesy Ms Trinidad & Tobago UK**



individuals and organisations who would have contributed to her efforts. She was especially grateful to her chaperone and mentor, Angela Cox, without whom this dream would not have been realised.



Submitted by **LEE-ANN GODDARD, MSTTUK2018**

I can still hear those words clearly in my mind "So the winner of Ms Trinidad and Tobago UK National Queen 2018 is" then the presenter paused for a few seconds which seemed so much longer, building the anticipation as I nervously tried to control my breathing. Then, with great excitement my name Lee-Ann Goddard was called and that is

MY PAGEANT JOURNEY - MS TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO UK 2018

a moment now framed in my memory forever.

I can honestly say my life elevated that night and it was the start of a wonderful journey. Notice I said wonderful, not perfect; simply because life itself is not perfect but we can achieve great joy and satisfaction with the right mindset. Throughout the year, as I attended each event, there were many opportunities for personal and professional development which equipped me to better execute my ambassadorial duties both here in the UK and abroad which includes Trinidad and Tobago and Nigeria.

Winning this title also gave me the opportunity to complete a journey I started many years ago at the Miss Teen Trinidad and Tobago pageant. Symbolically the other delegates met briefly with the

past president Mr George M Richards. However, 15 years later, I returned for my official trip and had the privilege to enjoy a private courtesy call with our first female President, Her Excellency Ms Paula-Mae Weekes. I even met with several government officials and public figures including THA Secretary of Tourism, Culture and Transportation, Councillor Nadine Stewart-Phillips, the Mayor of Port of Spain Mr Joel Martinez, Mr Rudolph Walker, Sir Gary Sobers and many others.

Similar to other pageants, the ethos "beauty with a purpose," has always been part of my life's motto. Therefore, as a Trinbagonian ambassador I adopted and raised funds for the pageant's official charity Kids in Need of Direction (KIND) in Trinidad and

Pictured: Ms TTUK Lee-Ann Goddard presents a token to Her Excellency Ms Paula-Mae Weekes

supported other fundraising initiatives like the “Wear Sumting Red Charity Concert” in London for victims of the devastating Trinidad floods. I also expanded my personal brand Klassi Bodyz which is a motivational lifestyle brand and introduced Klassi Brunch for ladies. Our gatherings provide a friendly and safe atmosphere where we all feel comfortable to socialise, discuss, share, motivate and support each other on a regular basis. No topic or issue is off limits. I am extremely proud of all these and the uplifting projects I will continue to work on in the future.

Finally, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the pageant’s committee and



Carivog International for giving me this wonderful opportunity to be an official ambassador for our country. I am grateful for all the positive lessons learnt, wonderful experiences and this amazing platform aided by the use of social media namely Facebook and Instagram which I used to

actively promote the pageant and our beautiful Trinidad and Tobago to the world. I am also blessed with close friends and I thank them and my family especially my parents for their continuous love and support through every stage of my life.

Now, I can finally say my pageant journey has come to a successful end and I am truly excited to hand over the crown in 2020 to another deserving young lady as she creates her own beautiful memories. Once an Ambassador, Always an Ambassador

Pictured: Ms TT UK Lee-Ann Goddard with residents of Carolina Village, Couva on a recent trip to Trinidad. **Photo courtesy Lee-Ann Goddard**

TRINIBOI JOOCIE – THE NOTTINGHILL CARNIVAL AMBASSADOR

Submitted by **KIRTH NOEL**

Triniboi Joojie is one of Europe’s elite soca artistes whose career thus far, can be described as extraordinary.

With various titles and achievements gained throughout his short but accomplished career, he has surpassed all expectations for the development of the soca art form here in the UK and Europe. He is no doubt a household name and his fan base has grown to a level where Triniboi Joojie now hosts his own annual concert - Joojie Unplugged.

Over the past three years, Triniboi Joojie has performed in numerous events and competitions across Europe including Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Spain, Netherlands as well as the Caribbean and recently in the US. Over this period, he

has been recognized and acknowledged for his excellence and commitment to the arts, most recently being commissioned as an ambassador for the Notting Hill Carnival. In late 2018, Triniboi Joojie made history performing at the first Boiler Room event to feature soca music at Somerset House, which was streamed to millions around the world.

Triniboi Joojie collaborated with and worked alongside the likes of Jazz legend Courtney Pine and the father of British neo-soul Omar at the ‘Love Supreme Festival’ 2014. Other collaborations include Bay-C of T.O.K, Scrufizzer, Silvastone, Wetty Beatz, to name a few.

In addition to this, Triniboi Joojie is also a qualified educator and has taken his expression to schools and universities across the Britain; introducing and showcasing an otherwise unknown genre of music to wider, possibly untapped audiences.

Seen as a cultural ambassador throughout the European Soca



Pictured: Triniboi Joojie

Scene, Triniboi Joojie was awarded for his contributions to West Indian culture and his accomplishments to date by the LNH CET - (London Nottinghill Carnival Enterprise Trust).

Triniboi Joojie is a marketable brand; due to the astounding talent, diversity, passion and energy this artist brings to every performance/project – captivating any audience and bringing them to a euphoric state. His ultimate goals are to take Soca, the genre, to mainstream levels throughout Europe and expanding on the brand which is Triniboi Joojie (youth, culture and quality).

Pictured: Rodell ‘Triniboi Joojie’ Sorzanzo teaching performing arts at a secondary school. **Photos courtesy Kirth Noel**



NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL COMPETITION RESULTS

2019 LONDON CALYPSO TENT - CALYPSO MONARCH COMPETITION RESULTS

The finals of the 2019 London Calypso Tent - Calypso Monarch Competition took place on Thursday 22nd August, in front of a packed audience at the Tabernacle, Powis Square. The results as follows:

1. Helena B - 'A Mother's Tears'
2. De Admiral - 'Brexitteering'
3. Lord Cloak - 'Protect your Property'

2019 LONDON CALYPSO TENT - SOCA MONARCH COMPETITION RESULTS

1. Helena B
2. De Admiral
3. G-String



Top: Pepe Francis MBE and Ebony Steelband Juniors Arranger David Soj Ijajuola. Above: Musician Etienne Charles interviews Mangrove Steelband Arranger Andre White. At right: Andre White with Mangrove Steel Band. Photos: @kevrjoseph @panpodium. At left: Helen B. Below: People's World Carnival Band masqueraders. Photo: nhcarnival.org



2019 NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL STEELBAND COMPETITIONS RESULTS

PANORAMA 2019

1. Mangrove Steel Band: "Savannah Grass", arranged by Andre White
2. Metronomes Steel Orchestra: "So Long", arranged by Leroy Clarke
3. Ebony Steel Band Trust: "Trouble In The Morning", arranged by Duvone Stewart

JUNIOR PANORAMA 2019

1. Ebony Steel Band Trust: "So Long", arranged by Ebony Steel Band Trust: "So Long",
2. Endurance Steel Orchestra: "FAlive and Well", arranged by Aaron Phillips
3. Sussex Steel: "Right for Somebody", arranged by Pablo Barrios

For further information on the Best Conventional Steelband On The Road, Best Traditional Steelband On The Road, Bas J'ouvert Bomb Competition and Best Junior Steelband On The Road please visit fb.com/britishassociationofsteelbands



MAS ON THE ROAD RESULTS

CATEGORY - CARNIVAL SUNDAY MAS BAND

Modern Contemporary

1. Mahogany Carnival Band
2. Smokey Joe Roadshow
2. Sunshine International Arts
3. Utopia

Fun Fantasy

1. Mangrove
2. Calabash
3. Cocoyea

Historical

1. Elimu Paddington Arts
2. Heritage Social Arts and Dance Group
3. People's World Carnival Band

Traditional

1. Inspiration Arts & Trinbago Carnival Club
2. Hotwax Carnival Group
3. Tropical Isles

Dutty Mas

1. United Colours of Mas & Associates
2. Bacchanalia Mas Band
3. Karnival Mania



CATEGORY - CARNIVAL MONDAY MAS BAND

Modern Contemporary

1. Mahogany Carnival Band
2. Utopia
3. Tropical Fusion Mas

Fun Fantasy

1. United Colours of Mas & Associates
2. D Riddim Tribe
3. Calabash

Historical

1. Elimu Paddington Arts
2. Heritage Social Arts and Dance Group
3. Cocoyea

Traditional

1. DUKA Mas Domnik UK Carnival Band
2. Hotwax Carnival Group
3. Tropical Isles

The High Commission for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in London congratulates all participants on their outstanding performances and unique contributions to the success of the Notting Hill Carnival and its associated events.



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Pictured: 1) Mahogany Carnival Band, Photo: nhcarnival.org, 2) Inspiration Arts & Trinbago Carnival Club, Photo: Inspiration Arts, 3) Mas Domnik UK, Photo: Duka Mas Domnik UK, 4) Frolic Nation, Photo: Frolic Nation, 5) Wotless UK, Photo: wotless.com, 6) Pure Lime Chocolate Mas, Photo: Pure Lime, 7) Omnia Carnival, Photo: Omnia Carnival, 8) Funatik Mas, Photo: Melysah Charles, 9) Karnival Mania. Photo: karnivalmania.com, 10) D Riddim Tribe Mas Band Photo: D Riddim Tribe Mas Band, 11) Cocoyea Mas Band, Photo: Cocoyea Mas Band London, 12) Bacchanlia Carnival Mas Band, Photo: Bacchanlia Carnival Mas Band.

NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL 2019

Submitted by **ANSEL WONG**

This year, 2019, marked the 53rd Notting Hill Carnival; the acknowledged inaugural event that led to its development into what we now know as the Notting Hill Carnival occurring in 1966.

Those 53 years have seen the Carnival develop into one of the UK's seminal outdoor events, attended by over two million people and scores of participants as artists, artisans, performers and stall holders.

The organiser of the Carnival, Notting Hill Carnival Limited (NHCL), a subsidiary of the Carnival Village Trust, is in its second year of organising the Carnival.

Reviews of 2019 are still being conducted and a full appraisal of the Carnival is yet to be published.

However, it is generally agreed that it was a successful event with some major challenges still to be confronted. The participation of performers – bands, sound systems and masqueraders, has improved with a noticeable increase in the number of people attending on both days; in part, due to the very warm weather and the success of last year.

The goal remains to make the



Pictured: Origins Moko Jumbies led by Alan Vaughan. **Photos courtesy** Elimu Mas Academy

event safe and spectacular with artistic excellence and community engagement remaining key aspirations.

Notting Hill continues to attract both audiences and performers from across the globe and this year was no exception.

There were several artists contributing to the success of this year's Carnival and we feature one as an illustration of the level of innovation and artistic quality that audiences raved about in 2019.

Elimu Mas Academy, in partnership with Origins Moko Jumbies led by Alan Vaughan, showcased a presentation at the Judging Zone that featured the 2019 Carnival Queen, Shynel Brizan, portraying Mariella, Shadow of Consciousness, a tribute to Wilson Harris, The Palace of the Peacock.

Shynel was introduced to the stage by 15-year-old classical violinist, Jada Marsh. To the strains of Malaguena by Sarasate, Shynel entered the stage in full glory with her expanded wings in full flow. Slowly as she moved towards the judges, the quiet strains of Malaguena morphed into Savannah Grass.

BOOM

Moko Jumbies explode onto the stage. Trinidad Carnival in all its traditional glory.

And this is just one of the many examples of the winners in Carnival – from Mangrove Steel Band, Panorama Champions, to Helena B, both Groovy Soca Monarch and Calypso Monarch 2019.

Notting Hill continues to lead the way in innovation and excellence in Carnival Arts.

WONG SHOWCASES CARNIVAL AT SHAW THEATRE



Pictured: Caribbean UK Community Group and masqueraders at Shaw Theatre. **Photos courtesy** Elimu Mas Academy

High Commissioner Orville London was the patron when the Caribbean Community Group presented Carnival Showcase 2019, at the Shaw Theatre, in London, on Sunday 21st July. The production was billed as “an alternative Carnival event showcasing artists from diverse genres and backgrounds to represent and

celebrate Carnival”. Ansel Wong, one of the main organisers, said that it was the organisation’s first venture of this kind and one of the major objectives was to “extend the reach and widen the audience for Carnival related activities”.

Among the headliners who delighted the enthusiastic audience were Tobago Crusoe with his highly popular Windrush rendition; fellow calypsonians Alexander the Great, D’Alberto and Giselle Carter who shared MC duties with Sandy Alexander. Also featured were teenage violinist Jada Marsh and the Ebony

Steelband Ensemble. The evening’s entertainment climaxed with presentations of characters from popular bands which parade the streets during the Notting Hill Carnival celebrations.

Wong said that his organisation is hoping that the Carnival Showcase would become an annual event at the Shaw Theatre venue.

Pictured: Caribbean UK Community Group moko jumbie at Shaw Theatre. **Photos courtesy** Elimu Mas Academy



CARNIVAL IN CHINA

Submitted by **ANSEL WONG**

Elimu Mas Academy is one of the UK’s premiere Carnival Arts Organisation with a mission to promote and develop the arts of Carnival and the culture of Trinidad and Tobago on the global stage.

For the past 40 years, Elimu has participated in the Notting Hill Carnival and for 12 of those years, took groups of performers, Pan and Mas, to China and Malta.

2019 was an auspicious year as Elimu celebrated two major anniversaries. 2019 was the 45th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Trinidad and Tobago, cementing relations that also went back to 1806 when the first group of Chinese arrived in Trinidad. On the 20th June 1974 the leaders of both countries made the historic decision to establish diplomatic relations ushering in a new era of political, cultural and trading relations.

2019 was also the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Peoples Republic of China (PRC).

To commemorate and celebrate these two anniversaries, Elimu Mas Academy recruited 30 performers to participate in the 21st Beijing International Festival with a floral presentation.



With costumes designed by Melissa Simon-Hartman, Helen Davenport and Moko Jumbies created by Glenis Paul, Elimu showcased the arts of Carnival dancing to a music mix by DJ Bad Lad from Canada.

Its performance was received by an ecstatic audience with the hosts in China complementing Elimu for the best performance of the Festival.

The touring group made a courtesy visit to the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago and presented gifts from Carnivals in Derby, Nottingham, Leicester, Northampton and London to Adrian Thomas, Second Secretary.

With the support of the High Commissioner in London and the Embassy in Beijing, a repeat visit is being planned for Shanghai in September 2020.



Above: Flowers in Bloom. **Below from left:** Elimu Mas Academy delegation courtesy call on the Trinidad and Tobago Embassy in China and Ansel Wong presenting a token to Adrian Thomas, Second Secretary. **Photos courtesy** Elimu Mas Academy

DIANNE CARLTON DESIGNS IMPRESS AT AFRICAN FASHION WEEK IN LONDON

The Dianne Carlton label was enthusiastically received at the African Fashion Week, in London, earlier this year. Fresh from the highly successful showing, Trinidad and Tobago designer and businesswoman, Stacey Weekes - Benjamin and her colleague Yvette Rowley, paid a courtesy call on High Commissioner Orville London at the London Mission, on Tuesday 20 August. She confirmed that the response was extremely positive and reported that she had been invited to the Amsterdam Fashion Show in October and the African Fashion Show in Zurich, Switzerland, in July 2020.



Above: Stacey Weekes - Benjamin, High Commissioner Orville London and Yvette Rowley, **Below:** Dianne Carlton Designs

Benjamin who is the daughter of the late Lord Blakie, one of the best dressed calypsonians of his era, said that she was inspired and influenced by the sense of style and the flair of the man who was known as “the saga boy of calypso”. Speaking about her role as Founder and Creative Director, Benjamin revealed that although her brand is just over a year old, it has already been featured at shows in Germany, New York and Washington. She is hoping to return to London in late November for another show whose target group will include the Trinidad and Tobago diaspora in the United Kingdom.



COMMONWEALTH FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS MEETING

Attendance was the strongest outside of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting when Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers met at Marlborough House, in London, on 10 July, 2019. Major focus at the meeting was on the High Level Group Reports on the Governance of the Secretariat. The reports which detail recommendations for the Governance of the Commonwealth Secretariat, were approved by the Foreign Ministers.

Ministers also approved an Affirmation to mark the 70 years of the unique



Pictured: Heads of Delegation at the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers Meeting at Marlborough House

Commonwealth family. The countries committed “with renewed confidence and determination to work towards deepening the impact that the Connected Commonwealth brings to our world”. Reaffirming “the core

principles of consensus and common action, mutual respect, inclusiveness, transparency, accountability, legitimacy, and responsiveness”, they pledged to work together with common purpose, in a concerted effort to build a better and

brighter world for the good of all our people.

During the meeting, Her Excellency Yamuna Karitanyi, the High Commissioner of Rwanda, presented

a document on possible thematic areas for the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, scheduled for June 2020, in Kigali, Rwanda. The recommended areas are Governance and Law; ICT and Innovation; Youth,

Energy and the Environment, and Trade. High Commissioner Karitanyi assured her colleagues that preparations were well advanced for a successful hosting of CHOGM 2020.

COMMONWEALTH TRADE MINISTERS MEETING IN LONDON

With the devastating effects of Hurricane Dorian on the Bahamas still fresh in their minds, Commonwealth Trade Ministers who met at Marlborough House on Thursday 10 October, expressed deep concern about the impact of climate change which significantly and gravely affect the economies and societies of many member countries. Noting that Small Island Developing States are perpetually vulnerable to the devastating effects of natural disasters on livelihoods and trading infrastructure, they made a call on Commonwealth members and the international community to support trade measures that help to alleviate these vulnerabilities and challenges and enable reconstruction.

Members expressed concern about the risks of protectionism and unilateralism to the global economy and underlined the importance of resisting all forms of protectionism, including the proliferation of WTO inconsistent measures that

threaten the rules based trading system.

The representatives of the 53 member countries reaffirmed their commitment to “free trade that is transparent, inclusive, fair and open”. The meeting also considered “concrete actions to support the implementation of the Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda for Trade, while exploring opportunities for member states to derive optimum benefits in the present global trading system”.

It was recognised that solutions must be found quickly to the numerous and simultaneous threats, especially to small and open economies that rely heavily on international trade. The Commonwealth, it was agreed, had a critical role to play in resolving the issues within the organisation and influencing the decision making process in the international arena.

High Commissioner Orville London headed the Trinidad and Tobago delegation to the Commonwealth Trade



Pictured: (L-R) High Commissioner London with Neville Alexander, Senior Economist in the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Trinidad and Tobago

Ministers Meeting which was held at Marlborough House in London, on Thursday 10 October. Included in the delegation were Mr Neville Alexander, Senior Economist in the Ministry of Trade and Industry and Ms Darcyl Legall, Second Secretary at the London Mission. Alexander and Legall represented Trinidad and Tobago at the three day Senior Trade Officials Meeting which preceded the Foreign Ministers Meeting.

INVESTT RECEIVES AWARD FOR “2019 TOP INVESTMENT PROMOTION AGENCY” AT WORLD FORUM



Pictured: (L-R) Adam Jones-Kelley, President Conway Inc with Philip Knaggs, Chairman InvestTT at The World Forum for FDI.

Photos courtesy INVESTT

The award for 2019 Top Investment Promotion Agency in Central America & Caribbean was presented to InvesTT at the 2019 World Forum for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) held in Sydney, Australia. InvesTT, the national IPA of Trinidad and Tobago, continues to proudly maintain its rank amongst the best IPAs in the world. InvesTT has been the recipient of the internationally recognized award on two prior occasions,

the first in 2015, just two years after the IPA's establishment and the second in 2017.

InvesTT's Chairman, Philip Knaggs who collected the award on behalf of the IPA, stated – "This award is an important milestone for Trinidad & Tobago. Being ranked as the best Investment Promotion Agency in the region clearly shows that our country has made great strides in creating a business environment that is attractive to foreign investors. Trinidad & Tobago is truly, 'Open for Business'. We actively seek and welcome investments from across the globe." InvesTT is actively involved in the promotion of the country's investment opportunities, sourcing of investments and growing the nation's GDP outside of the Petrochemical Sector.

Recognition was also accorded to Trinidad and Tobago as a top investment destination. The country ranked as one of

the Top "Global Best to Invest" locations in the Caribbean. Mark Arend, Site Selection Editor in Chief, stated "Those appearing in the rankings have demonstrated with actual numbers and other measures, that they have the location attributes most in demand by capital investors." Trinidad



and Tobago obtained the ranking based on its performance in the areas of total amount of investment and investment projects as well as investment value per capita.

Adam Jones-Kelley, President of Conway Inc., stated "There is no other award in the world that recognizes the important work IPAs do, and the massive economic benefits the best of them create for the communities they serve. Winning organizations like InvesTT make such a huge difference for their communities, creating jobs and prosperity for their citizens. Their impact is all too often overlooked - this award seeks to shine a spotlight on the best of the best of these remarkable organizations."

Pictured: InvesTT's Manager - Investments Sekou Alleyne and Chairman Philip Knaggs at the 2019 World Forum for FDI in Sydney, Australia. Photos courtesy INVESTT

HE DAVIDSON-CELESTINE AND TOBAGO GROUP MEET HIGH COMMISSIONER

High Commissioner Orville London played host to Her Excellency Tracey Davidson-Celestine, her husband Jit Celestine and a group of Tobagonians, at the London Mission, on Tuesday 18 September. HE Davidson-Celestine who is the Trinidad and Tobago Ambassador to Costa Rica, was the former Deputy Chief Secretary in the Tobago House of Assembly. She explained that, even while she was in the Tobago House of Assembly, she had been involved with the members of the group who were making their fifth overseas trip. This year, she said, the 31 member group had visited Belgium and France before their stint in the United Kingdom. She confirmed that they intended to continue what had become an annual tradition.

During the visit to the London Mission, members of the group shared their satisfaction with their experiences on the European continent and expressed their delight in reconnecting with High Commissioner London, former Chief Secretary of the Tobago House of Assembly.



Above: (middle row 4th from right) High Commissioner Orville London and HE Davidson-Celestine, Trinidad and Tobago Ambassador to Costa Rica with the Tobagonian contingent. **Below from left:** A member of the contingent raised points during the Question and Answer segment, HE Davidson-Celestine receives a token from High Commissioner London and members of the contingent signing the guestbook.



TOBAGO COPS TOURISM AWARDS



1) Mr. Louis Lewis, CEO of Tobago Tourism Agency Limited (TTAL) and Nadine Rankin, Joint CEO - Advantage Management Group Limited during the press conference at the Tobago Booth, 2) Tobago House of Assembly Chief Secretary Kelvin Charles, Trinidad and Tobago's Carla Jean Lares, Miss Globe 2019 first runner-up and High Commissioner Orville London, 3 & 6) Tourism stakeholders conducting meetings with potential investors 4) Tobago Beyond branding display destination showreel at the stand, 5) (L-R) TTAL Marketing Coordinator Ms. Sheena Des Vignes; CEO Mr. Louis Lewis; Chief Secretary Kelvin Charles; Secretary of Tourism, Culture and Transportation Councillor Nadine Stewart-Phillips; TTAL Board Deputy Chairperson Dr Acolla Cameron. 7) Pannist Duonne Stewart, Singer Yolanda Job-Thomas and drummer Dominic Williams provide the audience at the booth with a taste of Trinidad and Tobago folk sounds and music. 8) A cross section of the audience gathered at the booth to listen to Trinidad and Tobago music. **Photos 5-7 courtesy Tobago Tourism Agency**

The Tobago contingent at this year's World Travel Market returned home in buoyant mood after a successful stint at this year's World Travel Market. One of the highlights of the trip was the International Travel and Tourism Awards ceremony at Magazine London on Tuesday 05 November when the Tobago destination marketing campaign "Tobago Beyond", won the Silver Award for "Best National Tourism Board Campaign". The New Zealand entry took the top prize in that category. Tobago also earned the Highly Commended award, just behind the two top finishers among the eight finalists in the Best Destination Campaign- Country category. The

Tobago campaign was managed by Gravity Global, a dedicated global agency network.

The Tobago team to World Travel Market was led by Chief Secretary Kelvin Charles and included Secretary of Tourism and



Culture, Nadine Stewart-Phillips, Tobago Tourism Agency CEO Louis Lewis and a number of Tobago tourism stakeholders. Reports are that productive discussions were held with airline representatives, travel agents, bloggers and other industry professionals as they intensified efforts to market Tobago as a favoured destination. A release from the agency stated that "Tobago's presence at WTM 2019 allowed the destination significant coverage and promotion in critical source markets". High Commissioner Orville London who visited the Tobago booth on the opening day, said that the persons with whom he interfaced, expressed confidence that the Tobago message was resonating.

POSITIVE SIGNS FOR TOBAGO TOURISM

In its efforts to enhance the image and reputation of Tobago in a crowded and highly competitive market, the Tobago Tourism Agency Limited (TTAL) has engaged European travel specialist Boomerang Reisen to sell the island, using a digitally-focused approach. Boomerang Reisen is a long-haul travel specialist with more than 25 years in the market, operating 25 branches in three European countries. The company launched its thrust into the Caribbean in 2018 and Tobago is the latest addition to its programme.

According to a recent release, “The Tobago Tourism Authority and Boomerang will partner to undertake a proactive approach to promote Tobago and its tourism products, with several campaigns encompassing traditional and online advertising elements”. Tobago Tourism Authority Coordinator Sheena Des



Pictured: Tourism stakeholders engage with Boomerang Reisen agents at the networking event held at Coco Reef Resort. **Photo:** Tobago Tourism Limited

Vignes explained that “Germany is our second largest source markets and among the world travel champions, thus it is vital that we create increased awareness among consumers in that region. By tapping into that lucrative source market, the Tobago Tourism Authority endeavours to inspire interest in travellers seeking a unique experience that goes beyond the ordinary”.

The agency hosted a familiarisation trip to Tobago, in early October when travel consultants representing four branches of Boomerang Reisen visited the island to ascertain its unique selling points and create a pool of qualified agents to sell the island in overseas markets. Tobago’s tourism stakeholders were given the opportunity to meet with the travel agents

and the response was quite positive, with Susan London of Bacolet Beach Club opining, “I am happy because we now have this opportunity to expose Tobago even further on the map by opening this extra channel”.

In more good news for the sector, Tobago House of Assembly Chief Secretary Kelvin Charles announced recently that the weekly Condor flights operating from Germany to Tobago will be continued. The flights were in danger of being discontinued because of the collapse of Condor’s parent company, Thomas Cook Airlines, which declared bankruptcy in September. According to Charles, temporary aid had been made available to the airline which could remain afloat and be able to continue providing services to Tobago and other destinations.

IOPC FUNDS MEETING IN LONDON

The governing bodies of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds held sessions from Monday 28 October to Friday 01 November, at the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) headquarters in London. The IOPC Funds are two intergovernmental organisations (the 1992 Fund and the Supplementary Fund) which provide compensation for oil pollution damage resulting from spills of persistent oil from tankers. These spills not only impact the marine environment and coastlines but the livelihoods of fisherfolk and workers in related fields. Claims for compensation arising from these incidents can run into billions of dollars and claimants can have recourse to the Funds, in accordance with the established Conventions.

Trinidad and Tobago was represented at the October sessions by High Commissioner Orville London, the Permanent Representative to the organisation and Darcyl Legall from the London Mission. During the sessions,



Pictured: Mr José Maura, Director of IOPC welcoming Darcyl Legall, Second Secretary and other delegates. **Photo:** IOPC Funds

representatives discussed reports on the status of claims for compensation, elected members to the 1992 Fund Executive Committee, approved the administrative budget for the 1992 Fund and noted a number of other reports. On the opening day, Mr Ban Ki-moon, former Secretary General of the United Nations, addressed the session and shared his views on climate change and sustainability. He spoke of the particular challenges that face the world and the vital role that governments must play in order to find global solutions to protect the environment for present and future generations. He acknowledged that the shipping industry had an important responsibility in tackling climate change and in protecting the marine environment, as it makes its contribution to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goal 14 which advocates the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources.

TOURISM TRINIDAD LIMITED TARGETS A 7% INCREASE IN INTERNATIONAL VISITOR ARRIVALS FOR 2020

For the new fiscal year 2019/2020, Tourism Trinidad Limited's (TTL) main goals are to increase visitor arrivals by 7% to 380,000, attain an average hotel occupancy rate of 64% and grow visitor expenditure. This builds on the current year's tourism performance as Trinidad has already recorded 276,269 international visitors (an increase of 2% over 2018) for the period January to September.

Mr. Howard Chin Lee, Chairman of the Tourism Trinidad said that "This is an ambitious agenda for Trinidad's tourism. Our focus is on developing a clearly identifiable Trinidad 'brand' to raise awareness of the destination throughout the world, deliver an outstanding visitor experience and establish Trinidad as a destination of choice. To this end, we have developed a comprehensive roadmap on how we can partner with government and stakeholders to take our tourism sector to new heights."

Tourism Trinidad is also developing a framework to assist local communities to build on their tourism offerings to attract more visitors to this destination, create more jobs and strengthen its overall contribution to the national economy. In this regard, a one-year Strategic Action Plan has been developed and nineteen (19) new hires have been onboarded to the company, to help drive the strategic agenda of the organization.

Three (3) key niches have been identified to grow tourism:

- Sports
- Events
- Conferences (Business)

The company will soon launch its brand identity and website for Destination Trinidad with marketing campaigns rolling out in major international markets around the globe. These campaigns, including a Diaspora campaign, aim to boost arrivals in the coming months, and in the lead up to Carnival 2020, and attract visitors year-



Pictured: The Women Football Team from Chico State University in California USA experiencing "dancing the cocoa" during a Lopinot Heritage Cocoa Tour. **Photo:** Trinidad Tourism Limited

round to the destination.

2020 presents the company with some once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to showcase Trinidad around the world. In April 2020 Trinidad will be venue for thousands of international hashers (trail runners) from over 75 countries. Promotional activity is being developed to encourage those attending the event to book their return vacation and will showcase Trinidad as an ideal location for world-class events and, by extension, a superb sporting and event destination.

Tourism Trinidad is currently collaborating with SportTT, Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts and other stakeholders to fully maximise every opportunity for the hosting of sporting, cultural and other events.



Pictured: The Honourable Randall Mitchell, Minister of Tourism at CarifestaXIV GrandMarket on August 23rd, in Port of Spain, Trinidad. **Photo:** Ministry of Tourism

The company will also be working with key partners, including air carriers and the international travel trade, to deliver better and more sustained connectivity, introduce new routes and airlines to the destination; therein facilitating a growth in visitor arrivals.

Plans are underway to re-vamp the company's digital platforms to allow for the targeting of potential visitors with personalised messages and offers; all designed to appeal to their specific interests. The aim is to attract a monthly average of 2,500 unique visitors to the website and attain a reach of 30 million views through powerful global influencers.

Tourism Trinidad also plans to ramp up its tourism education programs, increase awareness of the value and benefits of tourism at a national level, and inculcate a positive tourism mind set in every Trinidadian.

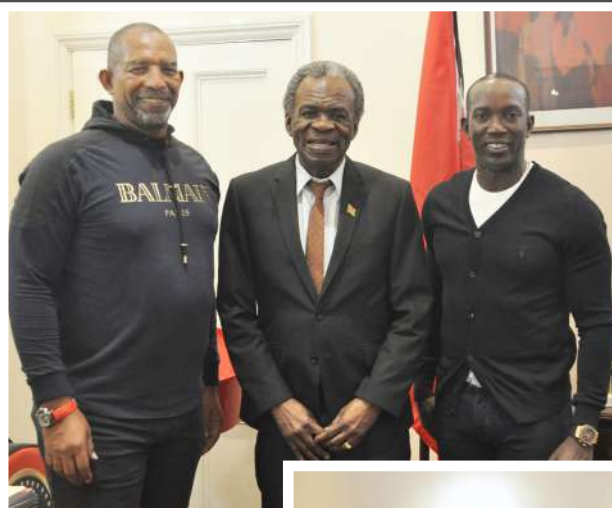
The local tourism sector will clearly have a very important role to play in the future of the destination and the opportunities offered by this industry to the economy, to employment and to social development will be enormous. Tourism Trinidad is well poised to drive the industry forward and is committed to ensuring that the tourism sector's potential is fully realized.

<http://www.news.gov.tt/content/tourism-trinidad-limited-targets-7-increase-international-visitor-arrivals-2020>

YORKE AND SIMMONS VISIT LONDON MISSION

There was some excitement at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission on Friday 25th October when former Manchester United footballer Dwight Yorke and recently appointed coach of the West Indies Cricket team, Phil Simmons, paid a joint courtesy call on High Commissioner Orville London.

At right: West Indies Cricket team Coach Phil Simmons, High Commissioner Orville London and Manchester United Global Ambassador Dwight Yorke. Below: Dwight Yorke signs the guestbook



Yorke who is one of the four Global Ambassadors for Manchester United, was returning to the United Kingdom from his home base in Dubai while Simmons was making a brief visit before the West Indies squad left for India to play against Afghanistan, and then engage in an even more challenging series against India, the top ranked team in the world.

London said that it was refreshing to renew contact with Dwight Yorke whom he had taught in Tobago, at the secondary school level. He added that he shared the country's pride in the

exploits of Yorke who had been able to follow up a brilliant career on the football field with a high profile ambassadorial role, marketing one of the world's most famous brands. He congratulated Simmons on his reappointment as coach of the West Indies cricket team and, while recognising that the task could be daunting and often frustrating, London expressed confidence that if he were to receive the requisite support, the highly experienced and motivational coach could be the catalyst for the revival of the region's fortunes, in cricket.



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO MENU POPULAR AT COMMONWEALTH FAIR

There was a steady flow of patrons to the Trinidad and Tobago booth during this year's Commonwealth Country League Fair, at the Kensington Town Hall in London, on Saturday 09 November. The Trinidad and Tobago offerings have become very popular with the regulars over the years and by late afternoon the stock of roti, doubles, stewed chicken, along with Tobago style "oil down" and crab and dumplings prepared by Ms Brigid London, wife of High Commissioner Orville London, was completely sold out. High Commissioner London said that he was grateful to the Wanis and Angostura companies for their generous donation of Caribbean products and to the members of staff at the London Mission who would have made outstanding contributions to the Trinidad and Tobago effort.

The Annual Countries League Fair is organised to provide funding for the Commonwealth Girls Education Fund (CEGF). The funds are utilised "to assist with the secondary education of disadvantaged girls with potential to achieve high academic success in their homelands, thus enabling them to become agents of positive change in their own countries and in the world". The event has become extremely popular as visitors take the opportunity to experience a diverse range of food, craft, clothing, music and other forms of entertainment from across the Commonwealth.



NATIONALS DISCUSS SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION ISSUES



Above: Nationals were shown the Get Safe Online's 'Scammer Nanas' video by Peter Davies, Global Ambassador, Get Safe Online. **At right:** Mrs Alicia Acres-Youksee - Immigration Attaché, High Commissioner Orville London and Peter Davies. **Below** High Commissioner London with nationals

In keeping with the stated objectives of ensuring that Nationals Meetings would be forums for the dissemination of relevant information and the facilitation of meaningful discussion, the topical issues of “Safety Online” and “The role of the Immigration Unit at the London Mission” were discussed when nationals met at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission Conference Room, on Wednesday 20 November.

Peter Davies, Global Ambassador for Get Safe Online made the trip from Portugal to update the audience on the initiatives in which his company was engaged. He was accompanied by Project Manager Eliska Peskomada. Get Safe Online’s major focus is “providing practical advice on how to protect yourself, your computers and mobiles device and your business against fraud, identity theft, viruses and many other problems encountered online”. Davies explained that, in accordance with the mission of the UK Commonwealth Cyber Security Programme, launched following the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in April 2018, funding was sourced and Get Safe Online was given the mandate “to deliver free, accessible, up-to-date and comprehensive advice about staying safe online, to the people and businesses in the Caribbean”. The company which operates from headquarters in Trinidad and Tobago, conducts programmes in eleven other Caribbean countries. Davies said that the response in the region has been encouraging but he expected the reach to be expanded significantly before the end of their contract, in March 2020.

Davies also had some advice for the members of the audience. He stressed that there are numerous and varied schemes, scams and opportunities that enable the criminal element to dupe members of the public. The best defence, he said, is common sense. Protection is about making smart choices and among the basic rules recommended by Get Safe Online are

- Be very careful about the amount of personal information you reveal, and to whom
- Choose, use and protect your passwords carefully
- Ensure that your anti-virus/anti-spyware soft ware is always kept up to date and switched on.

Sharing centre stage at the meeting was Immigration Attaché Ms Alicia Youksee who treated with a number of issues related to the services provided, and those not provided, by the Immigration Unit at the



London Mission. Ms Youksee explained that the recent increase in fees for persons in the United Kingdom was only due to the drop in the value of the UK pound, in recent years. She advised that appointments are mandatory for children under the age of sixteen and those applying for the first issue of machine readable passports persons should book their appointments, as walk-ins could only be accommodated when the Unit’s work schedule permitted. She also explained the limitations of the Mission with respect to the authority of border officials, whether in Trinidad and Tobago or any other country and cautioned that the Unit is guided and instructed by the regulations and the directives from the Immigration Division in Trinidad and Tobago. She pledged the continued collaboration of her office in treating with the myriad requests and concerns of nationals and other persons living or even transiting through the United Kingdom. Ms Youksee gave the assurance that she responded personally to all email messages and suggested that the most effective method to communicate with the Immigration Unit is by sending a message to hclondonimmigration@foreign.gov.tt. High Commissioner Orville London commended Ms Youksee and her team for continuing to uphold the tradition of professionalism and empathy at the Immigration Unit.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 2020 when nationals will have another opportunity to engage High Commissioner London and other officials on topics of interest.

NEW FEES IN RESPECT OF TRAVEL DOCUMENTS EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 28TH 2019

The High Commission wishes to inform that new fees will be charged for travel documents including passports, Emergency Passports, Emergency Certificate, Visa (Single entry and Visa (Multiple entry) **effective 28th October 2019**. Additionally, please be advised that there have been amendments to the requirements for the application for the renewal of a machine readable passport for persons sixteen years and over. Instructions for the renewal of a machine readable passport for children under the age of sixteen, as well as the consent authorisation letter can be accessed at the web link provided below.

The fees are as follows:

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS PAYABLE

A) MACHINE READABLE PASSPORTS:

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Adult (sixteen years and over) - 32 pages | £44.00 |
| 2. Child (two years and over but under sixteen) | £44.00 |
| 3. Child (under two years) | GRATIS (£14 DMSC) |
| 4. Special 48 page passport | £54.00 |

B) Valid lost or misplaced passport (Adult) £128.00

C) Valid lost or misplaced passport (Child) £128.00

D) Expired lost or misplaced passport (Adult) £44.00

E) Expired lost or misplaced passport (Child) £44.00

F) Stolen passport (Adult) £44.00

G) Stolen passport (Child) £44.00

H) Mutilated or damaged passport (Adult) £128.00

I) Mutilated or damaged passport (Child) £128.00

J) Expedited passport (Ordinary 32 page) £74.00

K) Expedited passport (Business 48 page) £84.00

L) Emergency passport £48.00

M) Emergency Certificate £11.00

N) Visa (Single entry) £24.00

O) Visa (Multiple entry) £34.00

FEES



N.B. THE ABOVE FEES (EXCEPT FOR VISAS) INCLUDE A DIPLOMATIC SERVICE CHARGE (DMSC)

A DMSC FEE OF (£14.00) APPLIES FOR PERSON AGED 60 AND OVER

The above fees are in accordance with the Revised Rates of Exchange to be used for the conversion of Passport and other fees as set out in the Seventh Schedule of the Immigration Act Chapter 18:01

All forms can be downloaded from the High Commission's website: <https://foreign.gov.tt/hclondon>

A TASTE OF HOME

MOUTHWATERING RECIPES FROM TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

PASTELLES

Ingredients

Filling

- 1 lb ground (or chopped) beef or chicken
- 1 tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 cup chopped chives
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh thyme
- 2 tbs olive oil
- 2 onions, finely chopped
- 4 cloves garlic chopped
- 2 pimento peppers chopped
- 1 tbs chopped celery
- 1/2 Congo pepper, seeded and chopped, (optional)
- 1/4 cup tomato sauce
- 2 tbs roucou
- 1/4 cup raisins
- 4 tbs capers
- 3 tbs olives, sliced
- 2 tbs fresh thyme



Cornmeal dough

- 2 cups yellow cornmeal
- 2 1/2 cups hotish water
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 12 nine-inch by nine-inch sized pieces of prepared fig leaves.
- String to tie pastelles

Fig leaves

- To prepare fig leaves, steam them in a large pot of boiling water for ten minutes until they become pliable and soft.

Preparation

Prep Time: 40 mins | Cook Time: 40 mins | Makes 15 pastelles

Method:

Make the filling:

1. Combine beef with salt and black pepper.
2. Add 1/4 cup chopped chives and one tablespoon thyme.
3. In a large sauté pan heat olive oil, add onion, garlic and sauté until fragrant. Add pimento peppers, add remaining chive, pepper, and thyme, add meat and cook until brown.
4. Add tomato sauce cover and simmer for about 15 minutes.
5. Add roucou and stir.
6. Add raisins, capers and olives and stir to combine.
7. Cook for about 5 minutes more, taste and adjust seasoning.
8. Add 2 tbs. fresh thyme and stir to combine.
9. Remove from heat and cool.

Make the dough:

1. Add butter to water, stir to melt.
2. Combine cornmeal with water mix.
3. Stir well and knead make a soft pliable dough.

Assembly:

1. Divide the dough into 15 balls of dough.
2. Cover with a damp cloth to prevent drying.
3. Place one piece of dough, (place some oil on your dough), on a greased fig leaf, and press to an 8 -inch width.
4. Spoon two tablespoons filling onto the middle of the dough and fold and seal pastelles.
5. Wrap in fig leaf and tie into a neat package.
6. Steam pastelles for 45 minutes until cooked.

Preparation

Prep Time: 15 mins | Cook Time: 60 mins | Serves 8

Method:

1. Mix and sift flour, baking powder and salt four times.
2. Add sugar and fruit; blend evenly.
3. Add coconut, cinamon and grated nutmeg and stir well.
4. In another bowl combine the whipped eggs, milk, essence and cooled melted butter. Mix well.
5. Make a well in the flour mixture.
6. Pour the egg mixture into the well and stir with a spoon. Batter will be heavy and mixture will be fairly stiff.
7. DO NOT KNEAD or bread will be tough. Mix entirely by spoon, assisted by a knife.
8. Pile into 2 non-stick or greased loaf tins.
9. Bake at 325 degrees for 50 - 60 mins or until an inserted skewer comes out clean.
10. OPTIONAL: When done, glaze with mixture of one tablespoon sugar and one tablespoon water. Sprinkle with granulated sugar and Return to the oven for 3 -4 mins.

COCONUT SWEET BREAD

Ingredients

- 4 1/2 cups flour
- 4 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 1/4 cups granulated sugar
- 1 cup chopped dried mixed fruit
- 1 cup raisins or 1 cup sultana
- 3 cups coconut, grated (not dried or sweetened)
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon, ground
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg, grated
- 2 eggs, well-beaten
- 1/2 cup evaporated milk
- 2 teaspoons almond essence
- 1/2 lb butter (melted) or 1/2 lb margarine (melted)



REMEMBERANCE SUNDAY

Remembrance Sunday was celebrated throughout the Commonwealth on Sunday 10 November. In Trinidad, Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes and Prime Minister Dr the Honourable Keith Rowley laid wreaths at the National Memorial Park, Port of Spain while Deputy Secretary Joel Jack represented Chief Secretary Kelvin Charles at the laying wreath ceremony at James Park, Scarborough.

Trinidad and Tobago High Commissioner Orville London joined the Queen and members of the Royal Family, Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Leader of Opposition Jeremy Corbin, Heads of Mission from other Commonwealth countries and other dignitaries for the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, London. The anniversary is in memory of those who have died in all wars. During the ceremony, wreaths were laid at the Cenotaph, a two minute silence was observed from 11am and a brief service was conducted by the Archbishop of London.



1-2) High Commissioner Orville London among other High Commissioners at the wreath laying ceremony, at the Cenotaph Whitehall in London. **Photos: BBC 3-4)** Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes and Prime Minister Dr the Honourable Keith Rowley lay wreaths in Trinidad, **5)** The Cenotaph Memorial Park on Fredrick Street in Port of Spain, Trinidad. **Photos: Office of the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago. 6)** Deputy Chief Secretary Joel Jack lays the first wreath during Remembrance Day celebration in Tobago. **Photo: Tobago House of Assembly**

UPCOMING EVENTS + PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO ASSOCIATION UK ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

380 GREEN LANES, LONDON, N4 1DW. TIME: 4 PM

The program includes their annual Christmas Carol Concert followed by Christmas Dinner.

For further info call: Louise - 07455570181, David - 07825517081, Irvin - 0798749002

WEDNESDAY 25TH DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY

THURSDAY 26TH DECEMBER BOXING DAY

TUESDAY 31ST DECEMBER

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO ASSOCIATION UK NEW YEARS EVE BASH

380 GREEN LANES, LONDON, N4 1DW. TIME: 8 PM - 2 AM.

Food and Drinks will be on Sale.

So come soca the night away! Please RSVP: Louise - 07455570181, David - 07825517081, Irvin - 0798749002

WEDNESDAY 1ST JANUARY NEW YEARS DAY

WEDNESDAY 26TH FEBRUARY

NATIONALS MEETING

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO HIGH COMMISSION, 42 BELGRAVE SQUARE, LONDON SW1X 8NT. TIME: 6 PM

