



ADDRESS BY  
THE HONOURABLE  
CAROLYN SEEPERSAD-BACHAN, MP  
MINISTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION  
AT CAREER FAIR  
SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> JUNE, 2012  
BRIAN LARA PROMENADE  
PORT OF SPAIN



Ministry of  
Public Administration

## SALUTATIONS

Cabinet Colleagues

Master of Ceremonies

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Administration, Ms. Gillian Macintyre, and other Permanent Secretaries present

Deputy Permanent Secretaries of the Ministry of Public Administration, Ms. Prabha Maraj and Mr. Richard Madray, and other deputy Permanent Secretaries present

Members of the Public Service of Trinidad and Tobago

Members of the Public, a special welcome to all the young persons I see at the numerous booths,

Members of the media

Good morning,

It is truly a pleasure to address all of you this morning, especially young people who are interested in job opportunities, in scholarships, in choosing their future careers and even in changing jobs from the private sector to the public sector.

When we came up with the idea of a pathway to the future that leads from gold to diamond, I never believed that we would get the level and amount of support we have been getting from everyone – my colleagues in Cabinet have all participated whole-heartedly in presenting what they do to you and in answering your questions and getting

feedback; I thank them for you, the entire public service from Permanent Secretaries down have set up displays and exhibits and ensured that they provided information and when they couldn't help you immediately, they have taken your names and contact details so they can get back in touch with you; and most of all, you, the members of the public, who have turned out in your thousands here on the Brian Lara Promenade and on Wednesday on Harris Promenade, San Fernando.

We've had school-children and grandmothers; we've had people from Cedros to Chaguaramas, from Charlotteville to Crown Point, not just visiting but exhibiting. Manzanilla, Mafeking, Toco, Talparo – they have all been represented

in this extraordinary week that is ending today with this Job Fair.

Over two thousand, three hundred public servants and their families kicked off Public Service Week last Saturday with a 5K fun event. They were all in red. It was a truly memorable spectacle but, more than that, it showed the solidarity that will take us on the journey from gold to diamond; it showed the determination that could help us rise above gold to the diamond standard; it showed what our public service can do to help themselves, to help you the people and to help our nation rise to new heights of achievement.

This is the diamond standard and today is a significant milestone on our path to progress. In a way it is a springboard to success – getting the right people into the right jobs in the public service and putting in place the opportunities for our young people to find opportunities for advancement and for leadership.

This is not just career planning. It is not filling in empty slots. It is what the Miami Heat did to become Champions. It is, first of all, developing “bench strength”. It is having in waiting, on the bench, the kind of talent that can come in when needed and perform at the highest standard against the toughest opposition and take you forward. It is more than depth. It is leadership.

This is why we are here today and why we invited so many of you to come. The future leaders of the public service, of the country as a whole, will be at our job fairs, if not the one today, in the many we plan to have all over this country on an annual basis. They will be here and they will be as impressed as I am with what the public service as a career has to offer. We want the brightest and the best because in our journey to diamond we will have the places, the challenges and the opportunities for them to sparkle and shine like true diamonds.

The public service of Trinidad and Tobago has come a long way since 1962 when it was formed as one of the first acts of an independent nation. It is now fifty years old and this is its Golden Anniversary. We will be honouring 50 of

the public servants who helped to achieve the Gold Standard that is the platform from which we launch our journey to Diamond.

These people are not just Permanent Secretaries or Heads of Department. We have received nominations from across the spectrum of jobs – vault attendants, teachers and other really dedicated public officers as well as people at the top. These nominations show an appreciation that anyone can excel, anyone can lead, and that it is the combined efforts of many dedicated people that lead to improvement.

There are many jobs in the public service at many levels and in different Ministries and Departments. They all need the best people that we can get. They all need dedicated



people who are fuelled by the determination to succeed and the desire to help.

As we move ahead the well-being, the welfare and the needs of our citizens will determine what the public service becomes, how it functions, where it functions and how well it functions. We are going to be what is called “citizen-centric”. You, the people of Trinidad and Tobago, will be the focus of all the services that we in the public service provide.

We have to eat, breathe, dream and sweat your best interests. We have to identify, in everything that we do, what is best for you. The people of Trinidad and Tobago will be the hub and the wheel of public service. We have to make sure that our people get the best service, in the

shortest time, at the lowest cost and of the highest quality.

We want to make sure you don't have to go too far from home if you have to move from your home at all to get services.

More and more, your mobile phone, your home computer, even your television, will be your window, your gateway into the world of services and opportunities this government will make available to you.

Even when we reach the Diamond or what we think now as the Diamond standard, we will have to review what we are trying to achieve because excellence is a moving target. When you think you have surmounted one challenge there will be more emerging.

But this public service has shown that it will not be daunted. It is the backbone of the government of our country. It has taken us through some critical points in our history, whether 1970 or 1990, and because it remained stable our country not just survived, we thrived. This public service will take on the Diamond and with your help and your support will achieve it. As Dr Williams said at our first Independence Ceremony, “Together we aspire. Together we achieve.”

My fellow citizens, this has been a momentous week for all of us in this country. Three weeks from now, on July 12, 2012, exactly fifty days from the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Independence, we will have a Gala that celebrates the achievements of our Public Service while, at the same

time, illuminating the way ahead From Gold To Diamond. This will be a significant milestone in our journey but not an end or even a beginning. It will be a rededication, a reaffirmation and a rekindling of the flames of service. It will be the added sparkle, the Diamond factor, in our progress as a public service and as a people.

I have seen the future and it is here at the Job Fair as it was during this entire Public Service week.

I thank you