

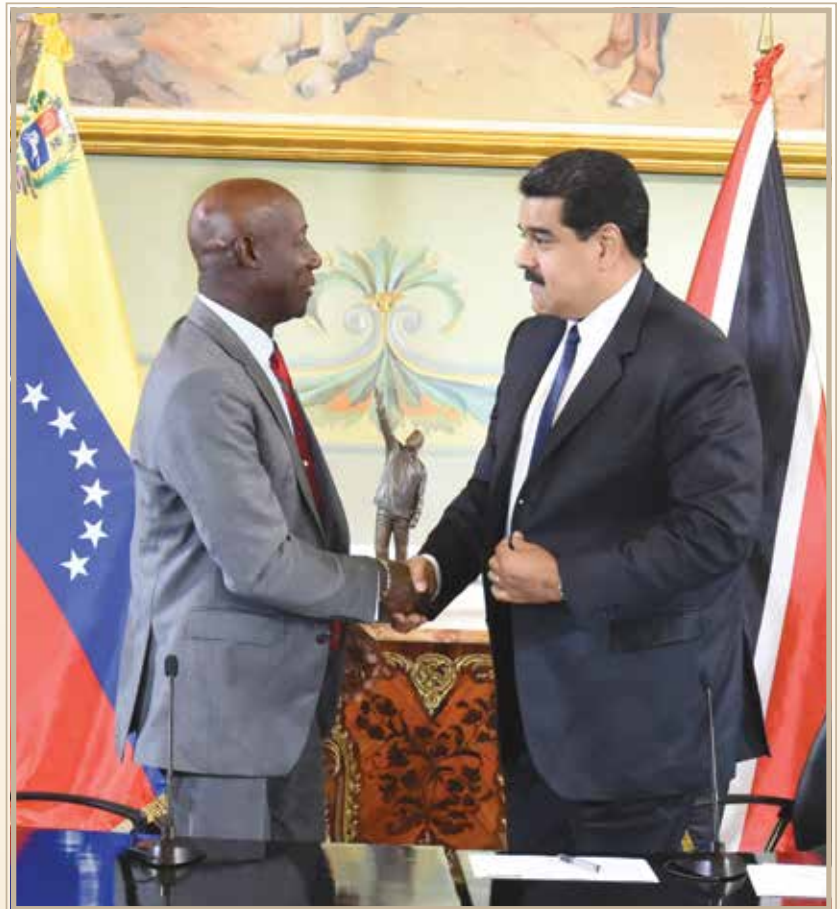
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND VENEZUELA STRENGTHEN TIES



Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and His Excellency Nicolás Maduro Moros, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela at the ceremony for the inspection of the Guard of Honour at Miraflores Palace

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND VENEZUELA
STRENGTHEN TIES

Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and His Excellency Nicolás Maduro Moros, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela shake hands following the signing of the Agreement between the both countries

On 5th December, 2016, Dr. The Honourable Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago paid an Official Visit to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on the invitation of H.E. Nicolás Maduro, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

During the visit, Prime Minister Rowley signed an agreement between Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela for the implementation of the natural gas supply project from Venezuela to Trinidad and Tobago. The signing of this agreement signals the mutual commitment of both countries to monetize hydrocarbon resources from key areas.

Prior to the signing ceremony both leaders engaged in bilateral discussions on other issues of strategic importance, which include, inter alia, security and trade cooperation. Prime Minister Rowley also attended a wreath laying ceremony at the Pantheon and inspected the Guard of Honour with President Maduro at Miraflores Palace.

Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela established diplomatic relations in 1963 and both neighbouring countries continue to work together to strengthen ties.

MINISTER MOSES CALLS ON UN MEMBERS TO CHART A COURSE OF MEANINGFUL GROWTH AND PROSPERITY

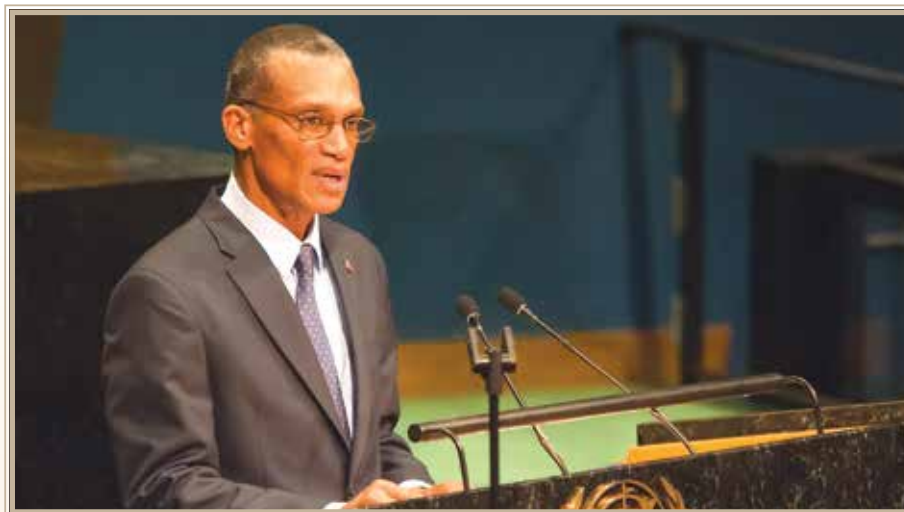
Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs called on the countries of the “United Nations to chart a course of meaningful growth and prosperity through the deepening of partnerships and cooperation, which should result in a reversal of the current patterns of inequality and insecurity and transform the collective circumstance to one which will redound to the benefit of all humanity.”

The call was made during the presentation of Trinidad and Tobago’s national statement at the General Debate of the 71st Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 26th September, 2016 under the theme, ‘The Sustainable Development Goals: A Universal Push to Transform Our World’.

Recognising the importance of the theme, Minister Moses highlighted this country’s proposal to implement the principles enshrined in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda as part of its national development plan, titled Vision 2030. He outlined a number of multitudinous threats and hazards, which affect our collective well-being and the longevity of our civilization and reinforced that the framework of the 2030 Agenda and the sustainable development goals, aptly deals with these issues.

He further stated that “from the existential hazard posed by unmitigated climate change, to the insidious threat of violent extremism and terrorism, the crises of forced displacement and the spread of infectious diseases and illnesses such as Ebola, Chikungunya and Zika, it is clear that the challenges of our time far exceed the limits of geography, and therefore diminishes the efficacy of unilateral responses.”

Focusing on the thrust of the 2030 Agenda for global transformation whereby no one is left behind, Minister Moses appealed for action to enhance the quality of life of all segments of society including those groups that are systematically marginalised including women, girls and the differently abled. He highlighted that Trinidad and Tobago



Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs delivers the national statement at the General Debate of the 71st Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly

remained committed to raising the standard of living and welfare for all members of the national community.

On the issue of climate change, Minister Moses stressed that for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) such as Trinidad and Tobago, unmitigated climate change posed an existential threat. He indicated that this country had joined with the international community in endorsing the Paris Agreement as a sign of hope for the future. The agreement, he added, prioritises the need for joint action on the critical issue of climate change, an approach that is absolutely imperative in averting its most dangerous effects. Accordingly, Minister Moses underscored that although the economy of Trinidad and Tobago is largely dependent on the hydrocarbon and petrochemical industries, the Government has instituted incentives to encourage investment and job creation in renewable and clean technologies in the transportation and industrial sectors.

Focusing on the threats of transnational organised crime and violence, piracy, trafficking in persons, cybercrime, and the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, Minister Moses, stated that as SIDS Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) as a

whole are compounded by the challenges which undermine efforts for sustainable development. He further indicated that these challenges in turn threaten the livelihoods of Caribbean people and the rule of law, and can potentially affect regional and international peace and security.

Additionally, Minister Moses pointed out Trinidad and Tobago’s deep concern for the increased number of violent extremist acts across the world that threaten shared values of democracy, peace, tolerance, and respect for human dignity. He also expressed concern about the global trend of young people falling victim to recruitment by extremist groups, and highlighted the Government’s view that counter-terrorism strategies ought to include the creation of enabling environments to support the empowerment of young people.

Minister Moses concluded his address by underlining Trinidad and Tobago’s mandate to “continue to work closely with this family of nations in the pursuit of international peace and security, human rights and sustainable development for every single human being.” He called on every Member State of the United Nations to be responsible for the universal push to achieve the sustainable development goals that will transform this world.

MINISTER MOSES CHAIRS THE 51st SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE OAS



Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs chairs the 51st Special Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States

Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs chaired the 51st Special Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) which was held on 31st October, 2016 in Washington, D.C., United States of America.

The OAS is the premier multilateral institution in the hemisphere and constitutes all thirty-five (35) independent States of the Americas. Nations from other parts of the world participate as permanent observers which allow them to closely follow the issues that are critical to the Americas. The Organization fosters closer collaboration among Member States on issues such as democracy, human rights, hemispheric security and sustainable development.

The OAS provides further support for augmenting the institutional capacity of Member States in political, economic

and social spheres through its various programmes and projects. The Organization has also designed and utilised mechanisms for monitoring progress in respect of the achievement of hemispheric goals in Member States.

Minister Moses guided the discussion at the Special General Assembly of the OAS which assisted in bringing Member States to a consensus to approve the 2017 Program Budget of the regular fund for the hemispheric institution as well as the Comprehensive Strategic plan that will guide the work of the Organization in the future.

The Special Session was dedicated to OAS financial matters and afforded an opportunity for political sign-off on the 2017 Programme-Budget by Member States. Member States also used the Session as a platform to protect their particular interests and present perspectives on what should constitute the priorities of the Organization

during the upcoming financial period, in view of the budgetary constraints facing the Organization. In this regard, the Integral Strategic Plan of the Organization of American States considered during the 51st Special Session was of particular interest to Trinidad and Tobago.

Trinidad and Tobago signed and ratified the Charter of the OAS in 1967, making it the first Commonwealth country to become a member of the OAS. Since that time, the country has been an active member of the Organization and remains committed to the ideals and principles shared by the Member States of the OAS. Trinidad and Tobago has benefited from funding for several development projects in areas such as education, security, social and sustainable development, labour and science and technology and has also contributed in its engagement with the various agencies and entities of the OAS.

MINISTER MOSES ACKNOWLEDGES THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES



Front Row, 6th from left: Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs with delegates at the 19th Intersessional Preparatory Meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Association of Caribbean States

Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs acknowledged the contribution of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) in highlighting the threats to the sustainability of the Caribbean Sea - the common home of ACS member states. The statement was made at the 19th Intersessional Preparatory Meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Association of Caribbean States on 11th November, 2016 in Port of Spain.

During the welcome address, Minister Moses suggested that all members of

the ACS should “share a commonality of purpose and a sense of urgency with regard to the need to address threats to the sustainability of the Caribbean Sea, such as the emergence of the Sargassum Seaweed, overpopulation of the Lionfish and deleterious impact of coastal erosion.” He further added, “We need the support of all in confronting such threats since they have a direct impact on the economic, social and environmental development of the Greater Caribbean.”

Minister Moses also reiterated, on behalf of the Government and People of the Republic

of Trinidad and Tobago, the country’s heartfelt condolences to and solidarity with the Government and People of the Republic of Haiti, as expressed by Prime Minister, Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, in his letter to President Privert, following the devastation wrought by Hurricane Matthew in early October. Minister Moses also called on the members of the ACS to “render support to Haiti, thereby, sharing what we have with our brothers and sisters in that sister Republic.”

He also welcomed Dr. June Soomer, the new Secretary General of the ACS, who assumed duty on 28th July, 2016 and wished her a fruitful and enjoyable stay in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Ministerial Council comprises Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the 25 Member States as well as Associate Members. It is the principal organ for policy-making and direction of the Association. The Council oversees the work of the Directorates in the areas of Trade and External Economic Relations; Sustainable Tourism; Natural Disaster Risk Reduction; Budget and Administration and the Caribbean Sea Commission.

FAREWELL TO HEADS OF MISSION RESIDENT IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Thanking them for the excellent service rendered during their tour of duty in Trinidad and Tobago, Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs bid farewell to the outgoing Heads of Mission accredited to Trinidad and Tobago. These include:

- His Excellency Huang Xingyuan, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China;
- His Excellency Marcelo Salviolo, Ambassador of the Argentine Republic;
- His Excellency Shri Gauri Shankar Gupta, High Commissioner for the Republic of India;
- His Excellency Gérard Latulippe, High Commissioner for Canada;
- His Excellency Giovanni Castillo, Ambassador of the Republic of Guatemala;
- His Excellency Jaime Acosta Carvajal, Ambassador of Colombia; and
- His Excellency Claes Hammar, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden.



Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs presents a farewell gift to His Excellency Marcelo Salviolo, outgoing Ambassador of the Argentine Republic



Ms. Reita Toussaint, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag.), Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs greets His Excellency Gérard Latulippe, outgoing High Commissioner for Canada at a Farewell Courtesy Call

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FAREWELL TO HEADS OF MISSION RESIDENT IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs with His Excellency Huang Xingyuan, outgoing Ambassador of the People's Republic of China at a Farewell Courtesy Call



Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs greets His Excellency Giovanni Castillo, outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Guatemala at a Farewell Courtesy Call



Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs presents a farewell gift to His Excellency Shri Gauri Shankar Gupta, outgoing High Commissioner for the Republic of India



Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs with His Excellency Claes Hammar, outgoing Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden at a Farewell Courtesy Call

PRIME MINISTER DR. KEITH ROWLEY PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT TO JAMAICA



Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and The Most Honourable Andrew Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica sign the communiqué which details the results of the bilateral discussions between the two Prime Ministers during Prime Minister Rowley's Official Visit to Jamaica

Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, on the invitation of the Most Honourable Andrew Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica, paid an Official Visit to Jamaica during the period 17th to 21st July, 2016.

The Official Visit provided an opportunity for both Heads to engage in meaningful discussions on matters of mutual interest with a view to deepen relations and lay a foundation to develop a strategic way forward for both countries. The fruitful talks centered around matters

such as the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), immigration and consular matters, security, trade, energy and air services.

During the visit, Prime Minister Rowley paid Courtesy Calls on His Excellency Sir Patrick Allen, Governor General of Jamaica; the Most Honourable Portia Simpson-Miller, Leader of the Opposition; Mr. Bruce Golding, Chairman of the CARICOM Review Commission, the Honorable Tom Tavares-Finson, President of the Senate and the Honorable Pearl Charles, Speaker of the House of Representatives and His Excellency Nii Odunton, former Secretary General of the International Seabed Authority. The agenda also included a full day of activities at the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona Campus, where Prime Minister Rowley met with the UWI Vice Chancellor, Professor Hilary Beckles and other Executives to gain some insight as to what was happening at UWI. Dr. Rowley was honoured at a ceremony where he was inducted into the Prime Minister's Park of Honour and also met with Trinidad and Tobago students.

The Honourable Prime Minister was also the guest of honour at a reception hosted by Prime Minister Holness and the Most Honourable Mrs. Holness. He also attended a luncheon hosted by the Heads of the Private Sector Organization of Jamaica (PSOJ) and the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce (JCC). Members of the delegation had an opportunity to engage with Trinidad and Tobago nationals at a reception hosted by His Excellency Fitzgerald Jeffrey, High Commissioner for Trinidad and Tobago to Jamaica.

The outcome of the Official Visit was reflected in a 10-point Action Plan that was agreed upon by both sides that mirrored the spirit of the renewed partnership, as well as a Communiqué signed by both Prime Ministers.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO HEADS OF MISSION PRESENT CREDENTIALS

Seven Trinidad and Tobago Heads of Mission recently presented their Letters of Credence to the respective Heads of State in the receiving States to which they were appointed and have officially assumed their functions.

His Excellency Garth Chatoor, Trinidad and Tobago's High Commissioner to Ottawa, Canada presented his Letters of Credence to His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada on 15th June, 2016.

His Excellency Dr. Amery Browne, Trinidad and Tobago's Ambassador to Brazil presented his Letters of Credence to His Excellency Michel Temer, interim President of the Federative Republic of Brazil on 23rd June, 2016.

His Excellency Brigadier General (Ret'd.) Anthony W. J. Phillips-Spencer, Ambassador of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United States of America presented his Letters of Credence to the Honourable Barack Obama, President of the United States of America on 13th June, 2016.

Her Excellency Penelope Beckles, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations presented her Letters of Credence to His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations on 22nd August, 2016.

His Excellency Roger Gopaul, Trinidad and Tobago's High Commissioner to South Africa presented his Letters of Credence to His Excellency Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa on 4th October, 2016.

His Excellency Dave C. Persad, High Commissioner of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to India, presented his Letters of Credence to His Excellency Shri. Pranab Mukherjee, President of the Republic of India on 30th November, 2016.

His Excellency Colin Connelly, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the Kingdom of Belgium presented his Letters of Credence to His Majesty Philippe, King of the Belgians, on 7th December, 2016. Ambassador Connelly also presented Credentials to His Majesty Willem-Alexander, King of the Netherlands on 14th December, 2016, accrediting him as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.



His Excellency Dr. Amery Browne, Trinidad and Tobago's Ambassador to Brazil presents his Letters of Credence to His Excellency Michel Temer, interim President of the Federative Republic of Brazil



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His Excellency Garth Chatoor, Trinidad and Tobago's High Commissioner to Ottawa, Canada greets His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada.



His Excellency Brigadier General (Ret'd.) Anthony W.J. Phillips Spencer, Ambassador of Trinidad and Tobago to the United States of America with the Honourable Barack Obama, President of the United States of America

CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL DAYS

The commemoration of a National Day is an opportunity for nationals to celebrate the accomplishments of those who assisted in shaping their country into its present form. The Government of The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago strengthened the bonds of friendship with a number of nation-states resident in Trinidad and Tobago as citizens joined with nationals of other countries to commemorate their National Days.

Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs delivered remarks at the receptions held in celebration of the National Days of the United States of America, Argentine Republic, French Republic, Jamaica, Costa Rica, Mexico, Chile, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Germany, Panama, and Poland. Minister Moses conveyed congratulations and best wishes to the Governments and People of these nations. Trinidad and Tobago share mutual respect, friendship and co-operation and diplomatic relations with these countries have blossomed over the years.



Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs and His Excellency John L. Estrada, Ambassador of the United States of America toast at the reception on the occasion of the 240th Anniversary of Independence of the United States of America



Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs and Ms. Carmen Maria Gil Erazo, Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. of the Embassy of the Republic of Costa Rica cut the ribbon to open the Photographic Exhibition to commemorate Costa Rica's National Day



Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs and His Excellency David Prendergast, High Commissioner of Jamaica toast at the reception on the occasion of the 54th Anniversary of Independence of Jamaica

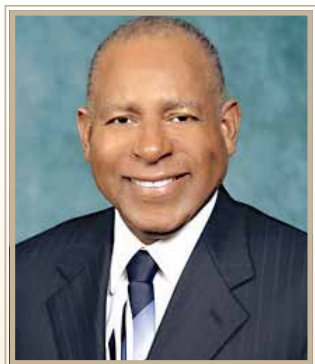


Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs and His Excellency Doo-young Lee, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea enjoy the reception on the occasion of the National Founding Day of Korea



The Honourable Major General (Ret'd) Edmund Dillon, Acting Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs and His Excellency Fernando Schmidt Ariztia, Ambassador of Chile toast at the reception on the occasion of Chile's National Day

TRIBUTE TO FORMER PRIME MINISTER PATRICK AUGUSTUS MERVYN MANNING



On 9th July, 2016, the Government and the People of Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean paid tribute to former Prime Minister Patrick Augustus Mervyn Manning who died on 2nd July, 2016.

Mr. Manning served Trinidad and Tobago with great distinction in various capacities, among them Member of Parliament,

Opposition Leader, Party Leader, Statesman and Patriot. The following are excerpts from some of the tributes paid to former Prime Minister Manning.

His Excellency Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona, O.R.T.T., S.C, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

“His commitment to the unfinished business of the full integration of the region should be documented for posterity. This should be compulsory reading for future leaders, whom must seek to build on his unfinished work. He was bold enough to champion the cause of regional integration wherever he went and at whatever forum he spoke.”

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

“After 35 years of serving with him in public life, I have never ever heard him speak of anything which he wanted for himself; it was always something and something outrageous for Trinidad and Tobago. And it was that which caused him today to be acknowledged as the person who put us into business in Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and into education at University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT).”

Ambassador Irwin LaRocque Secretary-General and Chief Executive Officer of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

“His humanity and personal interest in the well-being of others were outstanding attributes of his character and were highly appreciated by all, both within and outside the community. His invaluable contribution to our community stemmed from his conviction that integration was the most viable option for the sustainable development of our small states and the improvement of the lives of our people.”

Dr. The Honourable Ralph Gonsalves Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

“The Honourable Patrick Manning was an extraordinary parliamentarian and representative of the people, leader of The People’s National Movement, an outstanding visionary. He was possessed of a spirit of generosity, and a gift of solidarity.”

LAUNCH OF UNITED NATIONS EXHIBIT



Ms. Reita Toussaint, Acting Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs and Dr. Bernadette Theodore-Gandi, UN Resident Coordinator, a.i. cut the ribbon to launch a Moving Exhibit on the Sustainable Development Goals

The Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs observed United Nations Day on 24th October, 2016 in collaboration with the United Nations (UN) Country Team in Trinidad and Tobago with the launch of a moving exhibition on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Ms. Reita Toussaint, Acting Permanent Secretary extended congratulations to the UN on a job well done during brief remarks she delivered on behalf of Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs. Ms. Toussaint stated that “the UN has remained steadfast in its goal to promote sustainable and

peaceful development in every corner of the globe.”

She also thanked the nine UN satellite agencies and bodies in Port of Spain for the technical support and expertise they provided to Trinidad and Tobago in critical areas such as the eradication of poverty; citizen security; human rights and energy and environmental sustainability and management.

The exhibit formed part of the ongoing outreach on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda by the UN System in Trinidad and Tobago. It was designed to present information on the 17 SDGs which include, among others No Poverty; Zero Hunger; Good Health and Well-Being; Quality Education; Gender Equality and Clean Water and Sanitation.

The exhibit also showcased their projected role in the realisation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, current international and national data pertaining to each goal, activities in various sectors that can forward achievement of the SDGs and the role of the United Nations in supporting the SDG campaign and national development objectives linked to the SDGs.

MR. DONALD KELSHALL APPOINTED AS NEW ZEALAND'S FIRST HONORARY CONSUL IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



Mrs. Jennifer Daniel, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs (center) with Her Excellency Jan Henderson, High Commissioner of New Zealand and Mr. Donald Kelshall, New Zealand's first Honorary Consul in Trinidad and Tobago

Mr. Donald Kelshall has been appointed as New Zealand's first Honorary Consul in Trinidad and Tobago. Mr. Kelshall is the Managing Director of Savannah Computing and an active member of local Commerce and Industry Chamber.

On Tuesday, 15th November, 2016 Mr. Kelshall was officially introduced by Her Excellency Jan Henderson, High Commissioner

of New Zealand during a reception in Port of Spain which was held to launch the Honorary Consul.

In her brief remarks, High Commissioner Henderson stated that Trinidad and Tobago and New Zealand have positive, vibrant and multi-faceted connections. She further stated that "the appointment of a New Zealand Honorary Consul in Trinidad and Tobago is an acknowledgement of these connections and our desire to continue to deepen and broaden our bilateral links."

High Commissioner Henderson also pointed out that "Mr. Kelshall has the business experience, local contacts, enthusiasm and positive attitude to play a valuable role as New Zealand's first Honorary Consul in Trinidad and Tobago" and thanked him for accepting the appointment.

In his acceptance speech, Mr. Kelshall expressed his gratitude for the appointment and outlined some of his duties as Honorary Consul as well as highlighting some areas of trade between both countries.

Mrs. Jennifer Daniel, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs congratulated Mr. Donald Kelshall on his appointment.

Honorary Consul representatives enjoy limited privileges and immunities and perform limited consular functions in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

HIGH COMMISSIONER CHATOOR ADDRESSES THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA



His Excellency Garth Chatoor, High Commissioner of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to Canada with the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of International Development and La Francophonie of Canada and the Latin American and CARICOM Heads of Mission

On 14th November, 2016, His Excellency Garth Chatoor, High Commissioner of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to Canada addressed the Government of Canada on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) High Commissioners resident in Canada. The meeting was held with the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of International Development and La Francophonie of Canada and the Latin American and CARICOM Heads of Mission at the Lester B. Pearson Building, Ottawa, Ontario.

In his address, High Commissioner Chatoor offered brief comments for consideration on the issue of access to development aid and concessionary funding. He reminded the meeting that, "the issue of concessionary funding to developing countries and the use of Gross Domestic Product per capita as a benchmark have been ventilated as not fully capturing the many developmental challenges of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) ..." He further stated that in addition to per capita income SIDS believe that, "a Vulnerability factor has significant merit as an additional criterion for determining eligibility for access to funding."

During her presentation, Minister Bibeau provided an update on the priorities of her department which included Gender Equality and Women's Rights, Water Sufficiency, Climate Change, Agricultural Sustainability and Good Governance.

Other CARICOM representatives also made presentations on selected topics. Her Excellency Clarrisa Riehl, High Commissioner for Guyana spoke on Canada/CARICOM/Commonwealth; Her Excellency Shirley Skeritt-Andrews, High Commissioner for St. Kitts and Nevis presented on Climate Change Funds and Access while Mrs. Cyeth Denton-Watts, Counsellor at the High Commission for Jamaica spoke on the topic of Correspondent Banking.

EXPRESSION THROUGH ART

Members of staff including Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs were astonished and filled with excitement and questions, as they viewed the exhibits displayed by their colleagues at an art exhibition entitled, "Expression through Art".

The exhibition was held on 7th December, 2016 at the Ministry and provided an opportunity to foster camaraderie and to encourage staff to learn more about the hidden artistic passions of their colleagues.

Eleven persons displayed creative pieces, which included paintings, photographs, handicraft, jewellery and poetry. Members of staff selected the crochet baby wardrobe produced by Mrs. Allison Quong-Sing of the Permanent Secretary Secretariat as their favourite piece. The other pieces that generated a lot of discussion were the crochet sweater by Carol Samuel, CARICOM and Caribbean Affairs Division and the Pastry Art by Chantelle Edwards, Policy and Planning Division.

A glimpse of the exhibition.



REINFORCING OUR RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL TRADITIONS



Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, Iman Sheikh Imran K. Khan and a cross section of members of staff who attended the Eid-ul-Fitr Lecture held at the Ministry on 9th August, 2016



Mrs. Lisa Daniel-Charles, Communications Manager presents a token of appreciation to guest speaker Ms. Theresa Hope at the Emancipation Lecture held at the Ministry on 12th August, 2016



Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs is flanked by some fashionable members of staff who attended the Divali Lecture held at the Ministry on 26th October, 2016

Staff of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs came together to observe three (3) significant events on the national calendar: Eid-ul-Fitr, Emancipation and Divali. Each programme was designed to educate staff and provide answers to their questions on each national event. In this regard, Iman Sheikh Imran K. Khan, Ms. Theresa Hope, former colleague and Pundit Ganesh Maharaj delivered lectures on current topics of interest at the respective events.

JINGLE AND MINGLE AT CHRISTMAS

Staff of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs came together on 19th December, 2016 to celebrate Christmas under the theme, 'Jingle and Mingle'. The event was hosted by Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs at the Ole Fire Station Building in Port of Spain.

Minister Moses brought greetings to staff members and thanked them for their sterling contributions during 2016.

Members of staff mingled and enjoyed the sumptuous cuisine. They also sang along to a popular Christmas jingle that was adapted and performed by the group Los Alumnos de Brexit from the European Affairs Division. Carib Santa Rosa also provided entertainment for the Ministry staff.



NEW HEADS OF MISSION WELCOMED TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

As Trinidad and Tobago develops and change over time it is the government's role to foster strong foreign ties which are essential to forging beneficial relationships. In this regard, Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs recently welcomed new Heads of Mission to Trinidad and Tobago.

The Honourable Moses is eager to explore bi-lateral co-operation with countries., He welcomed new Heads of Mission from the Portuguese Republic, Republic of Guatemala, Republic of Guyana, the European Union, the Arab Republic of Egypt, Ukraine, and Singapore.



Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs with His Excellency Ambassador Arend Biesebroek, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Trinidad and Tobago



Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs greets His Excellency Bishwaishwar Ramsaroop, High Commissioner of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana



Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs greets His Excellency Mario Estuardo Torres Townson, High Commissioner of Guatemala



Mrs. Jennifer Daniel, Permanent Secretary (Ag.), Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs greets His Excellency Fernando Teles Fazendeiro, High Commissioner of the Portuguese Republic



Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs greets His Excellency Kemal Siddique, Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)



Mrs. Jennifer Daniel, Permanent Secretary (Ag.), Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs greets His Excellency Valeriy Chaly, non-resident Ambassador of Ukraine