



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

**Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**THE ORDER OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY CONFERRED ON DAVID RUDDER**

**PORT OF SPAIN: 10<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2022**

On the afternoon of Wednesday August 10<sup>th</sup> 2022, Mr. David Michael Rudder received the Order of the Caribbean Community at the Diplomatic Centre in St. Ann's, Port of Spain. This followed the decision taken by CARICOM Heads of Government to confer the Order of the Caribbean Community on Mr. David Rudder at the 43<sup>rd</sup> CARICOM Heads of Government Conference held in Paramaribo, Suriname in July 2022. Mr. Rudder had been unavailable to attend that event and so the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, together with the CARICOM Secretariat, conferred the award at a special function today.

Ms. Allison Drayton, Assistant Secretary General of Human and Social Development of the Caribbean Community praised Mr. Rudder for raising the spirits of the region. She noted that everyone felt Trini to the Bone as a result of his music.

His Excellency Chandrikapersad Santokhi, President of the Republic of Suriname, in a pre-recorded address as the Chair of the Caribbean Community, thanked Mr. Rudder for his sterling contribution to calypso and to the region.

Senator the Honourable Dr. Amery Browne, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, presented Mr. Rudder with the award, and delivered from the podium a detailed Citation that praised his stellar contribution as a cultural icon to the social fabric of Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean as a whole. The Minister lauded the wide span and longevity of Mr. Rudder's work, and included specific reflections on the profound impact of Mr. Rudder's seminal work in 1986 when his album "The Hammer" broke into the consciousness of Trinidad and Tobago and the world. Dr. Browne's presentation also highlighted that the clarion call of Mr. Rudder to Rally Round the West Indies remains cemented as an emotional anthem for West Indies cricket to this day.

In accepting the award, Mr. Rudder sincerely thanked the Caribbean Community and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for the honour and admonished young people to continue to learn and never to give up.

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### **Background on the Order of the Caribbean Community**

Initiated in 1987 during the Eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) Conference of the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, the Order of the Caribbean Community is conferred upon nationals of the Caribbean whose contributions to the development of the region are considered to be outstanding.

At the 43<sup>rd</sup> Conference of the Heads of Government held in Paramaribo, Suriname, three other awardees were conferred the Order of the Caribbean Community, namely, His Excellency Irwin LaRocque, former Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community; Sir Vivian Richards, cricketer; and Dame Billie Miller, former Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Barbados.

The Order of the Caribbean Community represents the highest award in the region and is bestowed with great pride and joy. The award can only be held by 15 living awardees at any time. Prior to 2022, the O.C.C. had not been conferred in 10 years.

### **Privileges and Entitlements:**

The Members of the Order of the Caribbean Community enjoy the following privileges and entitlements, amongst others:

- The award confers the styling *The Honourable* upon the recipient and Post-nominals *OCC*.
- Members of the Order are accorded the privilege of free movement among Member States of the Community and are issued with a travel document which is assigned similar status to a diplomatic passport.
- The right to reside in and be gainfully employed in any Member State, as well as the right to acquire and dispose of property, as would citizens of Member States.



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Senator the Honourable Dr. Amery Browne, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs as he addressed attendees prior to the conferment of the award



Senator the Honourable Dr. Amery Browne, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs presents the Order of the Caribbean Community medal to Mr. David Rudder

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The Honourable David Michael Rudder OCC as he addressed the gathering following the conferment of the Order of the Caribbean Community

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