

**WELCOME ADDRESS TO BE DELIVERED BY**  
**THE HONOURABLE SEAN SOBERS,**  
**MINISTER OF FOREIGN AND CARICOM AFFAIRS OF THE**  
**REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AT A STAFF LUNCHEON**  
**COMMEMORATING EID-UL-FITR**  
**25 MARCH, 2026**

Good afternoon.

It is a sincere pleasure to welcome you all to this luncheon as we gather to celebrate the recent occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr and the upcoming Spiritual Shouter Baptist Liberation Day.

While the national community observed Eid-ul-Fitr on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2026, we have intentionally chosen this day for our Ministry family to convene. Throughout the holy month of Ramadan, our Muslim colleagues demonstrated immense spiritual discipline and devotion through their fast.

By hosting our celebration now, we ensure that every member of our team can fully participate in the joy of breaking bread together and sharing in this festive meal as one community.

As we celebrate the spirit of Eid, we are also mindful of another significant milestone on our national calendar. On 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026, we will observe Spiritual Shouter Baptist Liberation Day. This day commemorates the triumph of faith over adversity and the resilience of a community that fought for the fundamental right to worship freely.

Both Eid-ul-Fitr and Liberation Day serve as powerful reminders of the strength found in our diversity. Whether through the self-restraint of the fast or the historical struggle for religious freedom, these observances highlight the values of perseverance, dignity, and unity that define our nation.

These are the same values that guide our work within this Ministry as we represent the interests of Trinidad and Tobago on the global stage and within the CARICOM region.

I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for the professionalism and dedication you bring to your roles. The discipline shown by those who fasted, and the resilience celebrated by the Shouter Baptist community, are reflected in the commitment you show daily to our country's diplomatic service.

To our Muslim brothers and sisters, I trust that you had a peaceful and joyous Eid celebration. I also extend my best wishes to the Spiritual Shouter Baptist community as we look forward to the upcoming commemorations next Monday.

Please enjoy the food and the fellowship of your colleagues. Eid Mubarak to you all once again, and a happy Liberation Day in advance.

Thank you.