

OPENING REMARKS BY MRS. CYNTHIA REDDOCK DOWNES, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, AT THE DISTRIBUTION OF BURSARIES, AUTHORITY'S LIBRARY/MEETING ROOM AT 11:00 A.M., FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 2022.

- Dr. Kim Mallalieu, Deputy Chairman of the Board, Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago
- Dr. Naseem Koylass, College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago
- Professor Indar Ramnarine, Deputy Principal, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine
- Professor Prakash Persad, President, University of Trinidad and Tobago
- Bursary recipients
- TATT executive officers and managers
- Other distinguished guests, members of the media
- Ladies and gentlemen

Welcome to the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, and welcome to this ceremony at which the first tranche of bursary cheques will be distributed to twelve students. These twelve students would have met specific criteria outlined in an agreement signed by TATT and the following institutions just over two months ago on July 1st.

- College of Science Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago,
- The University of the West Indies,
- The University of Trinidad and Tobago

This initiative is one with which TATT is particularly pleased for several reasons.

It is meant to contribute to the educational pursuits of students who are reading for degrees that could position them in Trinidad and Tobago's telecommunications and broadcasting sectors, which are regulated by TATT.

It is being undertaken in collaboration with the country's three state tertiary level institutions, which have wholeheartedly supported this initiative on behalf of their students

It is another building block towards this country's quest for digital transformation. At the presentation of instruments of appointment to directors to the board of TATT last year, Senator

the Honourable Hassel Bacchus, Minister of Digital Transformation, underscored the Government of Trinidad's vision for digital transformation, which focuses on three pillars:

- **Digital Society**, which addresses the need to ensure that Citizens not only have access to ICT, but are also able to use it effectively.
- **Digital Economy**, which is about both the digitalization of Private Sector agencies in Trinidad and Tobago, and the economic opportunities created by new and emerging technology from which our local entrepreneurs and investors in the Telecommunications and Broadcast Sectors and beyond can benefit.
- **Digital Government**, which is all about improving Citizens' access to Government Services through the use of appropriate technology, and also the utilisation of technology to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and overall value for money of Taxpayer's investment in the Public Sector.

Following the distribution of these bursaries, students' performances will be monitored and once your GPA levels are maintained - or even better, increase - you will be eligible for another tranche this time next year.

TATT anticipates the outcome of this initiative will be tangible as students at the end of your successful courses of study, will be in possession of certification that will allow you to contribute to the development of this country's telecommunications and broadcasting sectors, if you choose to remain in Trinidad and Tobago. If you choose to go further afield, this country will still benefit, due to global interconnectivity.

All the above gives TATT hope that there will be continuity in these sectors in the decades to come.

Do enjoy the rest of the ceremony.

I Thank you