

## FORMER DIPLOMAT HEADS THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND CARICOM AFFAIRS



*Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs being sworn in by  
His Excellency Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona, O.R.T.T., S.C., President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago*

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FORMER DIPLOMAT HEADS  
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND  
CARICOM AFFAIRS

Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses assumed the position of Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs in September, 2015. Minister Moses has had a long standing diplomatic career in which he served the people of Trinidad and Tobago during the period 1980 to 1990 at the headquarters of the Ministry and at the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago in Belgium.

Later in 1990 Minister Moses joined CAB International at its headquarters in the United Kingdom. He later returned to Trinidad and Tobago as the Regional Representative of CAB International for the Caribbean and Latin America.

Prior to his ministerial appointment, Minister Moses assumed duties as Representative of the OAS General Secretariat in the Commonwealth of Dominica in January 2014 after his

posting as Representative of the OAS General Secretariat in Guyana for eleven years. Before his tenure at the OAS, Minister Moses worked in Barbados as the Deputy Representative of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and in other capacities in other countries for a total period of six years.

He studied at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad and Tobago (1972 to 1975) and at the Universidad de Costa Rica - Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (UCR-CATIE) from 1977 to 1979 obtaining a BSc. degree in Agriculture, a MSc. degree in Agronomy and a post graduate Diploma in International Affairs (1981-1982). Minister Moses is fluent in French and Spanish.

## MINISTER OF FOREIGN AND CARICOM AFFAIRS COMMITS TO WORK WITH THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS



*Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs with representatives of the United Nations Agencies resident in Trinidad and Tobago*

Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, informed members of the Diplomatic Corps and Heads of International Organisations that, “Trinidad and Tobago remains engaged and committed to making its contribution to regional, hemispheric and global affairs and to working with all its partners towards the future we want.” Minister Moses delivered the brief remarks on Monday 21st September, 2015 during a meeting at the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs.

Minister Moses indicated his pleasure to have had the opportunity to meet with the diplomatic corps early in his tenure as Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, and conveyed appreciation on behalf of Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the kind sentiments expressed in congratulatory messages received from their Heads of State and Government. The Minister also took the opportunity to express sympathy to the Government and People of Chile on the

loss of life, destruction and displacement following the 8.3 magnitude earthquake which took place on 16th September, 2015.

In highlighting the new policy framework of the Government, Minister Moses advised that “it will be geared towards putting Trinidad and Tobago on ‘a path to growth, development, social peace, economic stability and transformation where all citizens would get their fair share of national resources.’” He noted that particular emphasis will be placed on a number of areas including international relations, national security, the environment and agriculture, and indicated that some of the initiatives envisaged were inspired by effective programmes in the countries represented by the Diplomatic Corps. In this regard, he emphasised his intent to deepen Trinidad and Tobago’s interface with Missions and International Organisations in order to ensure the best possible outcome in the implementation of different projects and programmes at the national level.

Minister Moses also underscored Trinidad and Tobago’s commitment to the

development and growth of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and to a strong CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). He indicated that the “Government will support regional initiatives and joint action for diplomacy and commercial relations with South and Central America, Asia and Africa, to complement existing structures such as those with North America and Europe.”

At the multilateral level, the Minister expressed the view that evolving global dynamics of an economic, political or environmental nature, demanded that Trinidad and Tobago increase its collaboration and continue to play its part globally. He added that “as a small state, the multilateral arena offers Trinidad and Tobago a platform to express and pursue the country’s development aims and aspirations as well as those of humanity.”

The meeting concluded with the Heads of Mission and International Organisations embracing the opportunity to extend individual greetings to Minister Moses.

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ADDRESSES THE SUMMIT OF WORLD LEADERS



*Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs at the Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment at United Nations Headquarters in New York*

Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, emphasised to the Summit of World Leaders that Trinidad and Tobago's implementation of the 2030 sustainable development agenda will be guided by its own national sustainable development strategy, which seeks to implement the sustainable development goals through twelve strategic priority areas over the period 2015 – 2025. Minister Moses delivered the statement at the United Nations Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda which was convened from 23rd to 27th September, 2015 in New York.

On 2nd October, 2015 Minister Moses delivered the national statement at the General Debate of the 70th Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on the theme, "The United Nations at 70: the road ahead for peace, security and human rights." At that meeting Minister Moses reinforced Trinidad and Tobago's intention to place strong emphasis on social and economic empowerment of its people through incentivising sustainable growth and diversification, achieving macroeconomic stability, job growth, respecting the ILO principle of Decent Work and the protection of the

environment. Minister Moses conveyed to the international community that it was the intention of Trinidad and Tobago to achieve these aims through a progressive programme of institutional reform, the establishment of a permanent mechanism for improved dialogue among the social partners namely, Government, Labour and the Private Sector and other elements of Civil Society, and focused interventions for improvement in data

collection and analysis. He pointed out that the Government had recognised that fulfillment of the goals and targets of the Agenda of the 70th Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly would require the availability of accurate, timely, high quality and disaggregated data. Minister Moses informed that the strengthening of data and statistical systems is one of the areas which Small Island Developing States will be prioritised for assistance through partnerships and international cooperation. He also took the opportunity to pledge Trinidad and Tobago's support for the reform of the Security Council to better enable this body to respond to the various security and other challenges of the contemporary world.

Focusing on the regional challenges with crime and security and the trafficking of small

arms and light weapons, as well as its attendant ills, Minister Moses stated that Trinidad and Tobago and CARICOM fully subscribed to the aims and objectives of the Arms Trade Treaty, as a critical vehicle to address the scourge of the illicit arms trade.

The Minister concluded his address by issuing a call for the revitalisation of the General Assembly in order to ensure the effective execution of its mandate. He also gave assurances that Trinidad and Tobago "will work faithfully, with others to build on the tremendous progress made by this institution over the seven decades of its life, in order to bring about a greater commitment by all States to Peace, Security and Human Rights for all Peoples of the world, so that they may live in larger freedom and continuing prosperity."

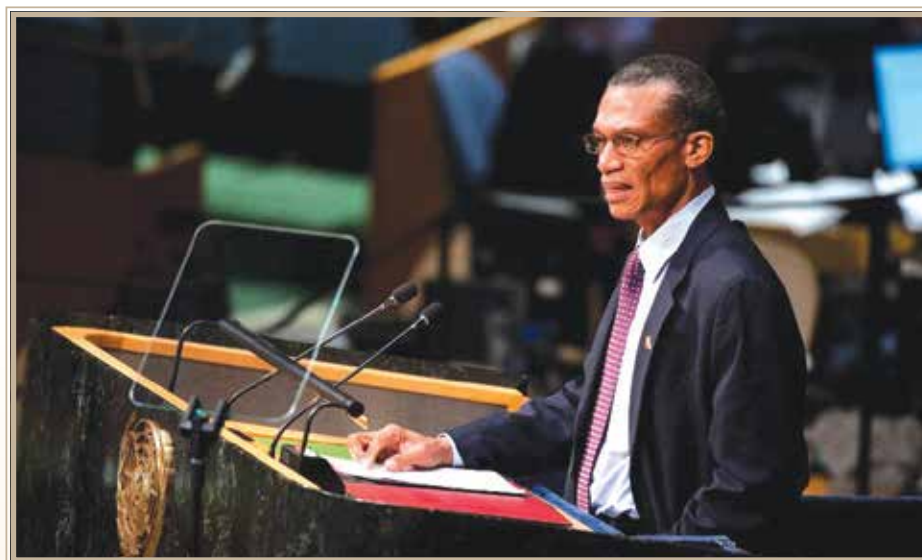
In addition to the General Debate, Trinidad and Tobago participated in several high level meetings which included the annual Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States; the meeting of the Alliance of Small Island States; the Foreign Ministers of the Group of 77 and China; and the annual Meeting of Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers.



*His Excellency Luis Guillermo Solís Rivera, President of Costa Rica with Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs*

Minister Moses also participated in the Private Sector Forum 2015 roundtable discussions on implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and on SDG 16 – Peace and Stability along with Heads of State and Government and Ministers. He later attended the Global Leaders’ Meeting on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and participated in the high level “Interactive Dialogue: Protecting our Planet and Combating Climate Change.” During the Meeting, Minister Moses advanced that the 2030 sustainable development agenda was a clarion call for ambitious and immediate action on climate change. Following these agenda items, Minister Moses participated in the high level meeting, “Creation of a partnership between Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility Segregated Portfolio Company and the South Pacific,” the Costa Rica/CARICOM Heads of State and Government breakfast meeting which preceded the Eight Special Meeting of the Council for Foreign and Community Relations and the CARICOM-India Ministerial Meeting.

The Trinidad and Tobago delegation also participated in a number of bilateral meetings at the level of Minister of Foreign



*Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, participated in the United Nations Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda*

Affairs to explore areas of mutual interests and to advance trade and other economic issues.

The 70th Regular Session of the UNGA afforded an opportunity to present to the international community the voice of Trinidad and Tobago on myriad issues, as well as on the policies of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to promote

an integrated and resilient ‘whole-of-Government’ approach to national security, and to contribute to the attainment of sustainable development in line with the Government’s strategic vision for Developed Country status by 2030.



*Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs (2nd from left) participates in a Ministerial Breakfast Meeting at the Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein to the United Nations. (This annual meeting brought together individuals who hold political-level positions in their countries and are strongly committed to the cause of international criminal justice, in particular to the International Criminal Court)*

## AMBASSADOR EDEN CHARLES TAKES LEADING ROLE ON UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE

**A**mbassador Eden Charles, Chargé d' Affaires a.i., of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations, New York has been appointed Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee for the "Development of an international legally-binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction."

This appointment was made on 4th September, 2015 in accordance with the provisions of Resolution 69/292 of the General Assembly. In adopting the resolution, it was agreed that "prior to holding an intergovernmental conference, the preparatory committee will be open to all States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialised agencies and parties to the Convention and others invited as observers in accordance with past practice of the United Nations, to make substantive recommendations to the General Assembly on the elements of a draft text of an international legally binding instrument under the Convention, taking into account the various reports of the Co-Chairs on the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction (BBNJ), and that the Assembly on its progress".

Ambassador Eden Charles' appointment as Chairperson of the



*Ambassador Eden Charles, Chargé d' Affaires a.i., of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations, New York*

Preparatory Committee lays the groundwork for a new legally binding instrument on BBNJ under the Convention. It is further testimony to the long and distinguished contribution by Trinidad and Tobago nationals to the development of the Law of the Sea, as the BBNJ treaty, when adopted, will be only the third implementing agreement under the Convention alongside the 1994 Agreement implementing Part IX of the Convention and the 1995 Agreement on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

## MINISTER MOSES MEETS WITH AMBASSADORS OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN INTERGRATION SYSTEM (SICA)



*L-R: Ms Carmen Maria Gil Erazo, Chargé d' Affaires of the Republic of Costa Rica; His Excellency Giovanni Castillo, Ambassador of the Republic of Guatemala; Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs; Her Excellency Carmen Gabriela Menéndez, Ambassador of the Republic of Panama; and His Excellency Raymundo Ernesto Rodriguez Díaz, Ambassador of the Republic of El Salvador*

**S**enator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs received Ambassadors of the Central American Integration System (SICA) resident in Port of Spain, on Wednesday 5th November, 2015. In attendance were Their Excellencies Giovanni Castillo, Ambassador of the Republic of Guatemala; Carmen Gabriela Menéndez, Ambassador of the Republic of Panama; Raymundo Ernesto Rodriguez Díaz, Ambassador of the Republic of El Salvador and Ms. Carmen Maria Gil Erazo, Chargé d' Affaires of the Republic of Costa Rica.

During the meeting, discussions focused on increasing SICA-Trinidad and Tobago and SICA-CARICOM engagement as well as identifying potential areas for bilateral collaboration in the spheres of trade, investment, tourism, education and air and maritime transportation with the respective countries.

## VISIT BY HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION FROM THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA

On 22nd September, 2015 Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, received a High-Level Delegation from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, led by Her Excellency Ms. Delcy Eloina Rodríguez Gómez, Minister of People's Power for Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which also included the Minister of People's Power for Oil and Mining and the Minister of People's Power for Economy and Finance. The visit took place following discussions held between Prime Minister Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley and His Excellency Nicolás Maduro, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Following the Courtesy Call on Prime Minister Rowley where he was joined by the ministers in his government representing the Ministries of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, Energy and Energy Industries, Trade and Industry, National Security, Finance and Community Development, Culture and the Arts, the Venezuelan Delegation participated in high-level bilateral discussions, co-chaired by Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs and Her Excellency Ms. Delcy Eloina Rodríguez Gómez. Among the issues discussed were energy cooperation, with a specific focus on accelerating the exploitation of the Loran-Manatee cross-border field and possible downstream energy collaboration;

enhanced bilateral trading arrangements; increased security cooperation; and cultural exchanges.

Both sides agreed to the establishment, in the short term, of a structured mechanism to operationalise the decisions emanating from the high-level dialogue. The discussions laid the foundation for Trinidad and Tobago's participation in the bilateral High Level Consultative Mechanism held in Venezuela on 26th October, 2015. The high-level encounter resulted in a Joint Declaration embodying agreements reached for advancing collaboration in strategic areas of mutual benefit which include energy, trade, security and culture with time-bound undertakings.



*Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs co-chairs a High-Level bilateral meeting with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in Port of Spain.*



*Working group session between Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and Her Excellency Delcy Rodriguez, Minister of People's Power for Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in Caracas.*

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO SUPPORTS SPECIALISED PAEDIATRIC PROJECT



*Judging of Chef Resa Solomon St. Lewis winning dish at the 2nd Annual Embassy Chef Challenge hosted by the Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IDB) Foundation of Ottawa*

The Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, Ottawa supported the specialised paediatric project on 5th November, 2015 and won the 2nd Annual Embassy Chef Challenge. The winning dishes were prepared by Chef Resa Solomon St. Lewis, Chef/Owner of Bacchanalle, a culinary enterprise focused on Caribbean Speciality Foods and Catering located in Ottawa.

Born of Trinidad and Tobago parentage, Resa was able to replicate and present authentic Trinbagonian flavours in her dish of coconut



*Chef Resa Solomon St. Lewis as she receives her trophy at the 2nd Annual Embassy Chef Challenge hosted by the Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IDB) Foundation of Ottawa*

and Resa's own sorrel which she bottles and sells at the farmers markets in Ottawa.

A cheque for CAN\$100,000.00 which represents the combined proceedings for the 1st and 2nd Embassy Chef Challenge, was donated to the Inflammatory Bowel Disease Foundation. The money will help fund the purchase of state-of-the-art equipment for a specialised paediatric inflammatory bowel disease procedure room at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO), thereby attaching the name of the High Commission to an event with a growing profile and reputation in Canada's capital region.

Other Missions represented at the event include the Embassy of Hungry, the Embassy of Moldova, the Royal Thai Embassy, the Embassy of the Philippines, the High Commission for the United Kingdom and the Embassy of Spain.

infused goat curry with Trinidad style paratha roti, curried potatoes and cucumber chow with tamarind rum glaze. She also prepared a Hibiscus - Rum Cocktail with her dish, made from a blend of Angostura Single Barrel Rum

## MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND CARICOM AFFAIRS OBSERVES DIVALI

Members of staff joined Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARCIOM Affairs, to observe Divali on 4th November, 2015 at the Ministry. Minister Moses in his Divali message encouraged staff to begin their own action to remove the darkness that has engulfed the planet. He stated that, "for this festival of lights, let us resolve to be the light ourselves. Instead of asking the Divine Mother to enrich our lives with wealth, let us instead ask how we may restore and rejuvenate the earth, our country, our society, our community and our Ministry." Minister Moses asked staff to perform simple acts such as the planting of trees or picking up of litter to demonstrate their love for the world just as the Divine Mother demonstrates her love for all.

Pundit Roshan Marajh representative from the Maha Sabha, in his address explained the significance of the theme, Devi Maa – "The Divine Mother" and the philosophy of Divali. Pundit Marajh also provided some insight on the five days of Divali: Dhanvantari Triodasi or Dhanteras, Narak Chaturdashi, Divali Puja, Goverdhan Puja and Bhaiya Dooj.



*Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses addresses staff of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs during the Divali luncheon*



*Pundit Marajh delivers a message at the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs Divali luncheon*



## STUDENT MISSION BRINGS LIFE TO CSME



Center: Ms. Frances Signoret, Permanent Secretary (Ag), Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs and other Ministry and CSME officials with St. Kitts and Nevis students from the CSME Student Mission 2015

**T**wenty-one students from St. Kitts and Nevis participated in a Student Mission entitled “Students Engaging the CSME through Field Promotion”. The CARICOM Secretariat programme which was conducted from 1st to 7th November, 2015 was aimed at sensi-

tising young people on the status of implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy in Trinidad and Tobago.

Students had the opportunity to meet with various officials from the public and private

sectors and engaged in discussions that focussed on the five regimes of the CSME. These include the free movement of goods, services, labour, capital and the right to establishment.

Ms. Frances Signoret, Acting Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and

CARICOM Affairs delivered remarks on behalf of Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs. She stated that the Student Mission offered the practical experience necessary to provide a holistic education and assured the students that they are the Region’s most valuable stakeholders. Ms. Signoret further stated that “as CARICOM addresses all the challenges that we are faced with, I believe that you can make a difference by giving our Region the tools to survive by creating a sustainable environment.”

Ms. Neila Jones, Student Delegate expressed appreciation on behalf of the students for the opportunity and the knowledge they gained from their participation in the Student Mission and highlighted some of the memorable experiences in Trinidad and Tobago. The students were awarded certificates of participation at the end of the programme.

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO PARTICIPATES IN THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING

**D**r. the Honourable Keith Rowley, Prime Minister accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Sharon Clark Rowley and supported by Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs and a team of senior officials, led the Trinidad and Tobago delegation to the Twenty-fourth Session of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, CHOGM, and related meetings in Valletta, Malta over the period 24th – 29th November, 2015. The theme of CHOGM was “Adding Global Value – Creating a more prosperous Commonwealth.” Given that this was the Prime Minister’s maiden international undertaking at a major multilateral forum, it was important to send the message that Trinidad and Tobago is once more substantively engaged with the international community and thus committed to playing a responsible role in the development of global policies and strategies to meaningfully address many of

the perplexing issues that threaten and often constrain development and stability, not only in the Caribbean region, but also in the wider international arena.

Recognising that international peace and security is at the top of the global agenda, the Heads of Government discussed the world-wide threats of radicalisation, violent extremism and terrorism and committed to implement national strategies to counter these threats and to support each other within a framework of strong international action and cooperation. Such cooperation will further strengthen Trinidad and Tobago’s ability to stem any attempts at terrorist recruitment and or radicalisation.

At a breakfast meeting of a small group of selected Heads of Government, convened conjunctively by the President of Botswana and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom on the issue of corruption in order to explore practical measures that

might be pursued collaboratively by the Commonwealth to minimise if not rid international society of this scourge and of its deleterious development, the Prime Minister lucidly delivered unscripted remarks outlining, among other things, some features to the architecture of international cooperation that would be required to create effective global systems for surveillance and possible forfeiture of the proceeds of corrupt practices. The Prime Minister will continue his international work in this area later this year when on the basis of an invitation extended to him by his British counterpart, he is scheduled to participate in a major international conference to be hosted by the British Government on the issue later this year.

It is common knowledge that Prime Minister Rowley and his Government have placed the development of comprehensive and robust anti-corruption legislation high

*Continued on page 10*

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO PARTICIPATES IN THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING

*Continued from page 9*



*Heads of Government and representatives at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2015*

on the national agenda. Consequently, the Prime Minister's active participation in the informal dialogue on this issue at the CHOGM underscores the extent of the Government's commitment to promoting efficiency, fairness, transparency and honesty in the conduct of Government business across all sectors of the society, including the state enterprise sector. This is geared towards creating a cost-effective, competitive business environment and a just and stable society respectful of the rights of all citizens to equal and unbiased treatment.

The Prime Minister's focus at the CHOGM went well beyond the issue of corruption to encompass issues relating to the economic development of Trinidad and Tobago, the economy of which has historically been built on attracting foreign direct investment. It was therefore with an eye to promoting Trinidad and Tobago as a good investment option that the Prime Minister participated in two roundtables during the Commonwealth Business Forum; one at which he delivered the feature address on the subject "Energy Security: Investing in the Future,"; the other at which he showcased the business and investment potential of Trinidad and Tobago in the non-energy sectors. Both presentations drew highly favourable reaction.

In support of the developmental interests of the Small and Developing members of the Commonwealth, which comprise the majority of the membership, the

Prime Minister joined other Heads of Government to launch three new facilities/initiatives designed to deliver practical assistance to such states in their efforts to achieve sustainable development. In this regard, the Heads commissioned the Commonwealth Trade Finance Facility to underwrite the payment risks faced by small Commonwealth exporters in seeking to enter and or develop new overseas markets. Lack of access to reliable and affordable trade finance on the part of the Small and Medium Enterprises that operate in most Commonwealth jurisdictions repeatedly inhibit their ability to enter and or sustain their participation in global supply networks.

The Heads also launched the Commonwealth Small States Centre of Excellence, an on-line platform and knowledge portal for sharing information and best practice in diverse areas of public policy, with a view to enhancing the efficacy and practical results of systems for the delivery of quality public services to national populations among Commonwealth member states. The centre is based in Malta, the current Chair-in-Office of the Commonwealth.

Concerned that several Commonwealth member states are Small Island Developing States and low-lying areas with particularly high vulnerability to the impacts of Climate Change, and of the consequential need to ensure that these countries are sufficiently equip to draw down on financing available to them for climate-related projects, the

Heads launched the initial phase of the Commonwealth Climate Finance Skills Access Hub, the venue of which is Mauritius. The Hub will offer expert technical assistance and advice to member states in ensuring that the requisite paperwork to apply for financing is correctly and comprehensively prepared in accordance with the guidelines in order to minimize administrative and other delays in processing the applications and in the release of funds. When fully operational, funding for climate-related development projects through this mechanism will be available to Trinidad and Tobago, other members of the Caribbean Community and other climate vulnerable developing commonwealth countries. Funds so obtained will free resources from the Government budget for re-allocation to other national priorities, while adding to the nation's capital stock and public infrastructure.

The Heads of Government underscored their support and advocacy for youth empowerment as agents of change, among other things, through the expansion of employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. In that regard, during the CHOGM a Policy Guide on Youth Entrepreneurship was launched as a collaborative effort between the Commonwealth Secretariat and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. The Guide identifies possible approaches to addressing the specific challenges and impediments affecting youth entrepreneurship and thus provides a useful framework to inform national strategies in this area.

While in the role of spouse Mrs. Sharon Clark Rowley provided dignified support to the Prime Minister on those ceremonial occasions that formed an integral part of representation in such settings, it was also notable that she attend the Women's Forum as an observer on Wednesday 24th November, 2015, thus adding further value and poise to Trinidad and Tobago's overall representation and effectiveness at CHOGM.

## THE PRESIDENT CALLS ON THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS TO BE CONDUITS OF CHANGE

**H**is 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 called on members of the Diplomatic Corps to be conduits of the goals of peace, justice, equity and a better standard of living for all the world's citizens. This clarion call was made at the Annual Dinner hosted in honour of the Heads of Diplomatic Missions Accredited to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

In addition, the President emphasised the role the Heads of Mission played as diplomats in "shaping unions among nations, dismantling disharmony, engaging with peace and understanding the cross-fertilisation of cultures and traditions." He encouraged them to use their resources, positions of influence and expertise as diplomats to protect the environment, animals, women, children and the people of the world.

Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs and Ms. Frances Seignoret, Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs also attended the Annual Dinner which was held on 14th November, 2015 at Pier 1 in Chaguaramas.



*Front Row: L-R His Excellency Marcelo Salvio, Ambassador of the Republic of Argentina to Trinidad and Tobago; Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs; His Excellency Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona O.R.T.T. SC. President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago; Ms. Frances Seignoret, Permanent Secretary (Ag.) Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs and members of the Diplomatic Corps at the President's Annual Dinner 2015*

## MINISTER MOSES BIDS FAREWELL TO THE OUTGOING DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS



*Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs presents a gift to outgoing Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Her Excellency Fidelia Graand-Galon*

“Diplomatic life involves a steady series of greetings and farewells. However, I can say with certainty that this is not ‘goodbye’ but rather an ‘until we meet again.’ I hope you remember your time here in Trinidad and Tobago with a great degree of fondness.”

These sentiments were expressed by Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs at the farewell luncheon hosted in honour of Her Excellency Fidelia Graand-Galon, outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Suriname for Trinidad and Tobago and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

The luncheon which was hosted on Tuesday 3rd November, 2015 at Mélange Restaurant, provided an opportunity to thank Her Excellency for her contribution during her time in Trinidad and Tobago, especially her involvement in the cultural exchanges which as Minister Moses highlighted, contributed to the strengthening of ties between Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname. The Minister indicated that Her Excellency's enthusiasm to share Suriname's cultural products, offered the people of Trinidad and Tobago great insight into Surinamese culture and its people. He further noted, the presentation of 'The Spirit of Emancipation Award in 2010' by the Emancipation Support Committee to Her Excellency for the significant role she played in linking the diaspora communities of both countries.

Ambassador Graand-Galon thanked the Minister for his sentiments as well as the people of Trinidad and Tobago for giving her the audience she needed to perform her duties for her country. Her Excellency indicated that her time in Trinidad and Tobago was a learning experience and highlighted culture as a significant aspect of her diplomatic duties in the twin island Republic, which keeps us together as Caribbean people.

Ambassador Graand-Galon ended her tour of duty in Trinidad and Tobago on 5th November, 2015.

## PRIME MINISTER DR. THE HONOURABLE KEITH ROWLEY MEETS WITH THE DIASPORA IN LONDON



*Prime Minister Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, Tedwin Herbert, Acting High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, London; Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs and Councillor Julie Mills, Deputy Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, London*

**D**r. the Honourable Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago spoke openly to the Diaspora on government's commitment to deal with issues of accountability, transparency in Public Office as well as economic and social challenges. The discussion took place on Monday 30th November, 2015 at Chelsea Old Town Hall, London during the Prime Minister's inaugural visit to the United Kingdom on his return journey from the recently concluded Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, which was held in Malta from 27th – 29th November, 2015.

Prime Minister Rowley felt it important to meet with the Diaspora resident in the United Kingdom to inform nationals of the mandate of the newly elected Government. Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley assured nationals that his government is committed to solving many

of the everyday issues faced by the family and friends living in our beautiful islands. One of his major concerns centred around the country's reliance on oil and gas and the long term economic challenge posed by the depletion of these non-renewable resources. The Prime Minister informed nationals that the Government's drive to diversify the economy would include investment in agriculture. In keeping with the High Commission's Diaspora remit, the Prime Minister reminded nationals present of their role and responsibility towards the economic growth and the development of their home country Trinidad and Tobago.

The High Commission's Diaspora Engagement Programme Team (D.E.P.T) mandate is built on the theme 'Charity Begins at Home' which is actively promoting his call. The High Commission's aim is to solidify and develop the relationship with nationals by way of patronage and support at various events

and initiatives. The Mission has identified many dedicated nationals who are desirous of the Mission's assistance in facilitating projects in Trinidad and Tobago. Others have expressed a willingness to serve on committees which would focus on tackling issues in health, education, trade and investment and culture. In this regard, the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, London will continue to work assiduously to engage our Diaspora throughout the United Kingdom.

The Prime Minister's meeting with the Diaspora showed commitment and willingness to engage with nationals residing abroad. It was indeed pertinent and will continue to form the basis of further engagement with the High Commission's team and nationals. In closing, Prime Minister Rowley reminded the Diaspora of the fundamental of patriotism, reaffirming "There is no place like home".