The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

CARIRI – CODING AND INNOVATION PROGRAMME LAUNCH

(FEATURE ADDRESS)

Message By

Dr the Honourable Nyan Gadsby-Dolly

Friday 15th July, 2022

SALUTATIONS:

Mr Ric Ali, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Planning and Development

Mr Hayden Ferreira, Chairman, CARIRI

Mr Wayne Nakhid, Deputy National Chief Digital Officer Ministry of Digital Transformation

Mr. Hans Erich Schulz, Chief Executive Officer, CARIRI

Ms Karen Yip Chuck, General Manager, Commercial and Retail Banking, Republic Bank

Ms Marlene Lord Lewis, President, NIHERST

Ms Cynthia Reddock Downes, Chief Executive Officer, Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago

Mr Mukesh Ramsingh, President of the Couva Point Lisas Chamber of Commerce

Mr Christian Rampersad, President of the Arima Business Association

Ms Melissa Senhouse, President of the Greater Tunapuna Chamber of Commerce

Mr Jason Roach, President of the San Juan Business Association

Mr Rajiv Diptee, President of the Supermarkets Association of Trinidad and Tobago

Students, teachers, parents

Good morning,

"If we teach today as we taught yesterday, we rob our children of tomorrow" – a quoted from *Education and Social Reformer, John Dewey*. Born out of 20th-century philosophy that still holds true today, this expression aptly surmises the direction that the Ministry of Education (MOE) is taking to train our teachers and educate our students. This Coding and Innovation Initiative points in the right direction for driving better economies.

At a time when rapid changes are happening in every sector of society and pushing us towards implementing innovative solutions, these students will be presented with the opportunity to add their contribution to the technological and digital transformation that is underway. By harnessing their skills and developing their ideas, they will be in a position to not only shape the future of Trinidad and Tobago, but the entire world. At the Ministry, we understand that our role involves sparking that innovation within our youth, which they

can use to develop solutions to problems in a technically advanced world.

Permit me here to thank the *Caribbean Industrial Research Institute* (CARIRI) in collaboration with Republic Bank's *Power to Make a Difference* programme for making this ideation session possible. Your belief in technology as a pivotal tool to motivate students to work together and collaborate falls is very much aligned to Ministry's Digital Transformation Progamme which is student focused and future driven. This programme will facilitate the evolution of skills that were required in the traditional job market to those advanced skills that will allow us to optimize operations and outputs in the digital age. What does this mean for the average Trinbagonian? We can look forward to greater convenience choices, increased value, increased efficiency, economic development and greater access to information that will result in better decisions.

This programme can help students to harness technology through research, design and construction in order to create a higher standard of living for themselves, their communities and their country.

I thank all of you for joining with us today and I encourage more stakeholders to partner with the MOE to move our youth forward with the knowledge and skills to navigate the future. I look forward to the impact of the Coding and Innovation Programme within our schools.

Thank you and God bless.