



The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

**CHINMAYA MISSION RIBBON CUTTING - SANT TULSIDAS  
CAMPUS INAUGURATION**

*(ADDRESS)*

**Message By**

**Dr the Honourable Nyan Gadsby-Dolly**

**Minister of Education**

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2022**

**10:00 am**

## **SALUTATIONS:**

- Swami Prakashanada, Principal of Chin-ma-ya Vidyaa-laya and Resident Head of Chinmaya Mission Trinidad and Tobago
- Mr Raju Sharma, Chargé d’Affaires of the High Commission of India in Trinidad
- Board Members of Chinmaya Mission and Chinmaya Vidyalaya Trinidad
- Pandits, staff members, parents, students, and well-wishers
- Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning,

I thank you for the opportunity to bring remarks here today. As Minister of Education it fills me with great joy to see stakeholders come together with the common goal of transforming education toward building a brighter future - one that demonstrates equity and inclusion, quality, and relevance. On behalf of the Ministry of Education (MOE), I wish to extend congratulations on the accomplishment of this new state-of-the-art teaching facility within the Sant Tulsidas Campus!

This facility will be a major contributor to the successful educational advancement of the Couva region, and ultimately Trinidad and Tobago. Initiatives like these chart a course and set the tone for the standard of education in Trinidad and Tobago, and I must add that your aim of shaping the next phase of youth education into the 21st century falls directly within the overall Digital Transformation strategies identified within the MOE and throughout government.

Having said that, I must stress that the buck does not stop at just the physical school building. In fact, I often reflect on the question: what makes a school?... I have found that a remarkable school improves the community it is embedded within. All involved are required to take up this mantle of education and help create communities of support for our youth. We are to provide a safe and healthy ecosystem for our children to grow and to develop. With a vision and mission deeply rooted in service to society, the Chinmaya Mission inspires us to reach beyond divisive borders.

To the teachers here today, as you go on to give students the best of cutting-edge instruction, remember that in times of crisis you may be called to make critical contributions to ensure your students' continuity of learning and overall wellbeing. As you can all agree, the role of a teacher or educator finds you at the helm of some of the most challenging situations where you are called to be moderator, doctor, confidante or sometimes, a parent. I encourage you to find your passion within – this is an indispensable element for learning and

teaching – so that your charges may have the best chance at success. Remember that teachers play a critical role in the development of a young person’s future.

Dear friends, education is not a privilege, it is a right; but we as the persons responsible for imparting knowledge and educating others, we have the privilege of seeing the fruits of our labour. At the supermarket when we do our shopping, on the television when we watch the news, representing our country at home and abroad; we have the privilege of knowing that we have contributed quality and upstanding citizens into our country. To the students, we hope that you will take advantage of the opportunities for growth by creating new bonds and seeking out new interests.

The MOE continues to work unceasingly to ensure that all of our children have equitable access to a quality education. I again commend you all on your commitment to educational development and at this time also recognize the Prime Minister of the Republic of

Trinidad and Tobago, Dr the Honourable Keith Rowley, in his absence, who I have the honour of representing here today.

To the students, parents, teachers, principal, stakeholders in education, I want to wish you all success as we enter a new academic year and this new school term. Let us remain resolute in ensuring that no child is left behind; let this be the main takeaway for all listening here today. It is through the continuous partnership between the Ministry of Education, teachers, parents and educational stakeholders that 'we' will truly achieve success for our students amid these times of increasing demands. Let us make sure that every group of learners is guaranteed equity, access, and quality in their educational pursuits. Let us commit to giving our future generation the tools for optimum success.

Congratulations again on the achievement of your new facility, and may God continue to bless you all.