



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Education Towers, No.5 St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain, Trinidad
www.moe.gov.tt

CSEC & CAPE Awards Ceremony 2021

Remarks

By

Dr. the Hon. Nyan Gadsby-Dolly
Minister of Education
February 10th, 2022

Salutations

- **The Honourable Lisa Morris-Julian, Minister in the Ministry of Education.**
- **Mrs. Lenor Baptiste-Simmons, Permanent Secretary.**
- **Mr. Kurt Meyer, Permanent Secretary.**
- **Mrs. Lisa Henry-David, Chief Education Officer.**
- **Principals, Teachers, Parents**
- **Staff of the Ministry of Education**
- **Specially invited guests, Ladies and Gentlemen**
- **Our CSEC & CAPE Regional Awardees**
- **Members of the Media.....Good afternoon.**

Allow me to start my brief address this afternoon with a quote from the late Sir Winston Churchill, (U.K Prime Minister 1940 -1945 & 1951-1955) He said **“Success in not final, failure is not fatal, it is the courage to continue that counts.”**

Today we celebrate not only the success of our eight (8) regional awardees, but also their courage to persevere in a global pandemic to be among the top CXC region awardees at the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) and Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE).

On behalf of my colleague, Minister in the Ministry of Education, Lisa - Morris Julian and the executives of the Ministry of Education, I extend heart felt congratulations and to you for not only making yourselves, parents, teachers and your school proud, but the entire nation of Trinidad and Tobago. You are among the best in the Caribbean region and we are very proud of you.

This CSEC & CAPE Awards Ceremony today, is also important because it validates our investment in education as a country. It is said **“the only thing more expensive than investing in education is not investing in education. Inadequate education produces high costs for society in terms of public spending, crime, health, and economic growth.”** (Global Economic Symposium 2019).

Investment in education remains a top priority for the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, thus our education sector continues to receive the largest chunk of the budgetary allocations year after year, with 2021 being \$6.886 billion.

We are indeed happy to celebrate the achievements of our students who recorded outstanding performances at the CXC, June/July 2021 Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination® (CAPE®) and Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate® (CSEC®) examinations.

These students are:

CSEC®	
Anaya Felix – Bishop Anstey High School East	Most Outstanding Short Story
Danielle Suite – St Augustine Girls' High School	Most Outstanding in Creative and Expressive Arts
Joshua Brailey - A.S.J.A. Boys' College	Most Outstanding in Visual Arts 2D
CAPE®	
Nikeesha Nanoo – Lakshmi Girls' Hindu College	Most Outstanding in Business Studies
Zoë Gonsalves – St Joseph's Convent - Port of Spain	Most Outstanding in Environmental Science
Joel Phillips – Hillview College	Most Outstanding in Mathematics
Jesse Rampersad – Naparima Girls' High School	Most Outstanding in Natural Sciences

Well done and congratulations once again, we are so proud of all of you.

In 2021, we had a total of 17,971 candidates writing the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate® (CSEC®) examinations in 33 subject areas, of which 9,730 (54.12%) were females and 8,249 (45.88%) were males.

At the CAPE Level, a total of 8,407 candidates (3,346 males & 5,060 females) registered for CAPE Unit 1 and Unit 11 examinations in 2021.

Thirty-two (32) Unit 1 and thirty-one (31) Unit 11 subjects were written at CAPE.

It is important to note that our overall performance in CAPE continues to be excellent.

The Minister of Education will continue to play a critical role in ensuring we have an educated and trained labour force, which adequately meets the national development needs of Trinidad and Tobago. The Ministry is committed to partnering with all stakeholders and contributing to the achievement of the national development vision and goals of 2030, which are articulated in the National Development Strategy (NDS) or Vision 2030.

Vision 2030 highlights the need for a modern, relevant and accessible education and training system which requires the support of all stakeholders. This provides

access for all citizens to education, while ensuring the curriculum keeps pace with improvements in technology and meets the needs of the changing world of work.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago recognises the role that education plays in ensuring future prosperity and economic growth. Therefore, both primary and secondary education are compulsory and free access to public schools is available to girls and boys.

National Consultation on Education 2021-2022:

Many of you would have participated in our recently concluded National Consultation on Education Policy 2021 -2022. I say thank you for your contributions, which the ministry will consider in developing its Draft Education Policy Paper 2022 – 2027. This document will provide the strategic direction necessary to guide our programmes, projects, and action plans for the Early Childhood Care and Education, Primary, Secondary, Technical/Vocational and Tertiary sub-Sectors for the next five (5) years.

In closing, in a bid to improve our education sector, The Ministry of Education has undertaken significant changes, in the areas of teacher training, curriculum reform and digital transformation among others. However, we cannot do it alone so we

continue to engage our key stakeholders daily, as we navigate challenges such as COVID-19 and other financial and economic and global factors. We recognize the invaluable contribution of our parents, teachers and principals.

This afternoon, as we join with CXC and recognise our eight most outstanding students at the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) and Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE) 2021, I would like to thank all our principals, teachers and parents for their role in supporting the efforts of all of today's awardees.

To our students, I say thank you and best wishes in your future endeavors.

May God bless us all.