



The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

**LOVEUNTIL FOUNDATION AND REPUBLIC BANK: “POWER OF
ONE” COMPETITION 2022**

(REMARKS)

Message By

Dr the Honourable Nyan Gadsby-Dolly

Thursday 4th August, 2022

SALUTATIONS:

Mr Brian Jones, Chairman – Loveuntil Foundation

Ms Simone Jones, General Manager – Loveuntil Foundation

Pastor Kishford Frank, Keynote Speaker

Ms Karen Ton Yew, General Manager – Republic Bank Group
Marketing and Communications

Ms Reena Gopaul, Manager – Republic Bank Group Brand Management

Our distinguished awardees today

Specially invited guests

Ladies and gentlemen

Today I am here to bring greetings on behalf of the Ministry of Education (MoE) and to congratulate each student who has participated in the “Power of One” Competition. I am encouraged to know that our young people are still very committed to putting in the hard work that is needed to address a range of social ills. It is my understanding that the areas of focus for this programme are Environmental Awareness; Sexual Responsibility, Health and Wellness; Social Injustice and Advocacy; and Community Mobilization all of which touch critical issues in our society and communities right here in Trinidad and Tobago.

With the aim of this project being to offer both Primary and Secondary schools additional support in education, life skills training, and self-development competences, this partnership between the Loveuntil Foundation and Republic Bank underscores how important it is for corporate and non-profit enterprises to invest in education, and I will say it till I am blue in the face....it takes a village. We need public private partnerships particularly in the education sector to get our children the holistic education they need. The school and teachers alone cannot supply

all that our students need. As such, programmes like this fill that gap. Thousands of our parents are doing their best but the world has changed and continues to do so by the second, with social media and the internet, despite its many benefits, exposing our children to negative messaging and influences. This programme, the “Power of One” Competition, must not end with certificate and prizes but redound to the benefit of the schools and communities. I therefore challenge the organizers to take this to an even wider audience and I hope many more programmes can come from this think tank which has provided the opportunity for these children to think and act differently.

The MoE intends to deliver effective governance and administration of the education system, access to educational opportunities by all learners, and quality education to all learners. This competition promotes exactly what we are working to achieve; a population that is adequately equipped to enact positive change and become model citizens of Trinidad and Tobago. The game changers for a better Trinidad and Tobago are in this room.

My admonition to each one of you finalists is to continue to answer the call for action. The project proposals that you have submitted represent only the start of your journey to becoming leaders of change. And to the teachers who are with us today, continue to be the pillars upon which these students can depend as they set in motion their plans for better communities and an overall better Trinidad and Tobago.

Again, I thank each one of you for prioritizing this initiative and answering the call for positive change. I am certain that we can look forward to seeing greater things from this project.

Thank you and God bless.