



The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

YTEPP/BPTT GRADUATION CEREMONY

(ADDRESS)

Message By

The Honourable Lisa Morris-Julian

Minister in the Ministry of Education

Friday 4th November, 2022

2:00pm

SALUTATIONS:

- **Ms Thora Best**, Chairman of the Board of Directors, YTEPP Limited
- **Mr Jesse Moss**, Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors, YTEPP Limited
- **Mr Nigel Parris**, Chief Executive Officer of YTEPP Limited
- **Mr Ryan Chaitram**, Manager of Communications & External Affairs, BPTT
- **Management and Staff of BPTT**
- **Management and Staff of YTEPP Limited**
- **Distinguished Trainees**
- **Members of the Media**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good afternoon,

It gives me great pleasure to celebrate with you at the YTEPP/bpTT graduation exercise today. Through your resilience and hard work, you have now inherited a technical/vocational skill that you can be very proud of. Like your fellow cohorts who received their leaving ceremony this morning, the total 109 of you represent the people who, through your newly acquired skillsets, will indeed support the national development interests of Trinidad and Tobago.

I must thank YTEPP's chairman, Ms Thora Best, and the supporting teams for coordinating today's graduation ceremony. Your theme of "Community Empowerment Collaboration 2022" speaks directly to the overall work of the Ministry of Education:

- Nurturing our greatest assets – you the students
- Ensuring that all citizens have access to a sound relevant education system.
- Adopting best practices in Education Administration through revision of Curriculum and promotion of a fair education system .

- Access to quality education.

With the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Ministry is also moving to make entrepreneurship training compulsory for all of our participants. It is not enough to just have a skill. The Ministry's aim is to create a mind-set or culture of entrepreneurship so that the very skills being learnt or acquired, can now be monetized, which can lead to self-sufficiency, youth empowerment, and the employ of others.

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) continues to be a driving force to sustainable development and its legacy continues to play an important part in the education landscape of Trinidad and Tobago. My advice to you students is to continue making use of growth opportunities available to you today. These will help broaden your proficiencies and help to build your self-confidence and leadership skills.

Today is exemplary of how private stakeholders can use their combined resources to join forces and to identify and implement

positive solutions within their communities. I must thank bpTT that despite COVID-19's restrictive tendency, their role in advocating for Community Empowerment Collaboration remains unbroken. The old adage of "It takes a village" will continue to be the rationale for underscoring the need for diverse communities, be it within the public or private sectors, to come together to make a difference.

So go out there – break new ground - and be the outstanding citizens that we know you can be. Vince Lombardi once said that, "The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand."

Congratulations again to the 2022 graduating cohort. I hope to see even greater things from you in future.

Thank you all and God bless.