



OPENING REMARKS

**HONOURABLE RANDALL MITCHELL, MP
MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

OPENING CEREMONY

GOVERNMENT PLAZA

**TUESDAY 9TH MAY 2017
10.00 A.M.**

**THE GP AUDITORIUM, GOVERNMENT PLAZA,
RICHMOND STREET
PORT OF SPAIN**

SALUTATIONS

- Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
- The Honourable Colm Imbert, Minister of Finance
- The Honourable Faris Al Rawi, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs
- The Honourable Major General Edmund Dillon, Minister of National Security
- The Honourable Maxie Cuffie, Minister of Public Administration and Communications
- Other Cabinet Colleagues and Members of Parliament
- Ms. Sandra Jones, Head of the Public Service and Permanent Secretary to the Prime Minister
- Other Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Division and Agencies
- His Worship Alderman Joel Martinez, Mayor of the City of Port of Spain
- Mr. Noel Garcia, Chairman of UDeCOTT and other members of the Board
- Mr. Frank Barnes, Chief Executive Officer, UDeCOTT
- Captains of Industry and Commerce
- Heads of the Representing Trade Unions
- All other Specially Invited Guests

- Members of the Media

A pleasant Good Morning to you all!

As line Minister for the Urban Development Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago, it is my distinct pleasure to be here with you this morning as the Government officially opens this beautiful modern Complex.

Many of you may remember that this project started in May 2004 with an expected completion date of November 2010. 7 years later, here we are.

This Government's vision has always been to provide safe, modern, comfortable accommodation for its public officers and their clients. This was viewed not just as an integral component to achieving developed country status but as an opportunity to cultivate a public service that has the propensity to promote and deliver world class service to our citizens.

The Urban Development Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago (UDeCOTT), under the stewardship of its current Board of Directors, along with its talented management team and the firm's project partners, have all contributed significantly to the successful completion of this state of the art facility.

The Government Plaza will house key agencies and offices in the Government's financial and legal branches including the Board of Inland Revenue, Customs and Excise Division of the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of National Security's Immigration Division and the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs Tower. Parking for staff and visitors will be available at the Government Plaza Parkade.

This is a major investment by Government, on behalf of the people of Trinidad and Tobago, and we know the returns, in terms of savings and service, will redound to all citizens.

This state of the art facility should certainly boost public service morale and enhance service delivery capability.

In addition to UDeCOTT managing the construction, fit-out and maintenance of this and other office spaces in the nation's capital, the corporation was also responsible for other recently-completed projects; such as –

- The brand new St. Joseph and Besson Street Police Stations, which were recently handed over to the Ministry of National Security;
- Remedial works on the National Academy of Performing Arts which have been completed and handed over to the

Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts; and

- The Brian Lara Cricket Academy which will be officially opened in the coming days.

We look forward to what's ahead as UDeCOTT continues to deliver on capital projects that will positively serve the interests of our citizens and shape the nation's ever changing landscape. I wish to take this opportunity to publicly thank the team at UDeCOTT as well as the project partners and other stakeholders who were involved in the construction and out-fitting of this office complex.

Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for the opportunity to welcome you.