



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO  
MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

# *Jetsam Awards Ceremony 2018*

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REMARKS

**NORRIS HERBERT, PERMANENT SECRETARY**  
MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

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26TH FEBRUARY, 2018

It is indeed a pleasure to bring remarks on behalf of Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon Minister of Trade and Industry who is out of the jurisdiction and regrettably unable to attend this year's Jetsam Awards Ceremony.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate all the champions of the annual horseracing season in Trinidad and Tobago.

Ladies and gentlemen, this longstanding event affords local horse racing stakeholders an opportunity to celebrate the industry's exemplars while also reflecting on the existing environment and opportunities for the future development of the sport. As you are aware, the sector contributes to the national economy through employment of both specialist and administrative personnel. However, several challenges have impeded its expansion thereby creating less than stellar circumstances. The current state of racing requires a collaborative effort by all stakeholders to ensure the return of the sport to its prestige and overall sustainability.

The initiatives which focus on improving the apprentice jockey training programme as well as the updating of the racing rules are positive steps in the right direction.

Further, the recent plan of the industry stakeholders for the financial sustainability of the horse racing industry is under active consideration by the Ministry. As such, consultations will be held with key industry participants to agree on a way forward.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago is committed to the enactment of the Gambling (Gaming and Betting Control) Bill which creates a modern legal and regulatory framework for gaming, gambling and betting.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry, while focused on attracting investments, improving the country's competitiveness and diversifying our export markets, also has its mandate to develop the horse racing industry through its entities, namely the Betting Levy Board and the Trinidad and Tobago Racing Authority.

The current economic climate has stymied the Government's ability to make substantial injections into racing. However, the development of the industry requires much more than direct financial support. In this regard, the Ministry and by extension the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is encouraged by the steps being taken the racing fraternity to not relinquish its vision of developing Trinidad and Tobago as the horse racing centre of the Caribbean.

Ladies and gentlemen, with these few words in closing, you are assured that the Ministry of Trade and Industry stands ready to aid the industry's efforts to further advance racing in our country. Despite constraints, the Government will continue to support efforts to expand local horse racing both in Trinidad and Tobago understanding the sector's capacity to contribute to employment and economic diversification. Racing stakeholders the proverbial ball is in your court let us all work together as frontrunners in this exercise.

Again, sincerest congratulations to all the winners this evening.

I thank you.