

SENATOR THE HON. PAULA GOPEE-SCOON,

MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

DRAFT REMARKS (2-3 MINUTES)

ETECK'S 20 YEARS CELEBRATIONS & AWARDS CEREMONY

6 December2024 | 7:00 p.m.

Grand Ballroom, Hilton Trinidad and Conference Centre

Salutations

- Mr. Randall Karim, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Ms. Ava Mahabir-Dass, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Mr. Imtiaz Ahamad, Chairman of e Teck
- The Board of Directors of e Teck
- Ms. Franka Costelloe, Chairman of the Trinidad and Tobago Promotions Agency
- The management and staff of eTeck
- Awardees
- Distinguished Guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening

It is truly an honour to join you on this wonderful occasion as we celebrate twenty years of eTeck! This ladies and gentlemen, this is not just a milestone, but this is the first legacy in the life of eTeck.

Over the past two decades, eTeck has been steadily supporting the Government to carry out its diversification mandate. eTeck has not only been constructing and managing industrial parks but it has been paving a foundation for businesses to access opportunities and achieve dreams. Driven by innovation, collaboration, determination, and most importantly, an incredible team, eTeck makes it all happen.

Tonight, as eTeck celebrates twenty years, I acknowledge you, the staff of eTeck for your passion, dedication and commitment to the company. In reviewing the program for tonight's celebration and awards, I noted that many of you will be recognized for your long-service to the company. Congratulations to you all. With a

complement of 75 talented individuals, 40 of you are being honoured with some of you receiving awards for over 10, 15 and even 20 years' service. This speaks volumes about your dedication, your commitment to the company and the management of eTeck, which have undoubtedly contributed to the company's success. I am certain that your experience will remain invaluable and essential as eTeck continues to grow and achieve even greater milestones.

From a modest beginning in 2004, eTeck has grown into a pivotal force, advancing the mandate of the Ministry of Trade and Industry through industrial development and economic transformation. Over the past nine years—since I've been in office, under the PNM—the Government has worked hand in hand with eTeck to create economic spaces where the private sector can thrive, catapulting our industrial landscape. During this time, five industrial parks have been opened, including the very special Moruga Agro-Processing and Light Industrial Park, the first of its kind in the Caribbean, and

the Phoenix Park Industrial Estate, our state-of-the-art first 5G industrial park in Trinidad and Tobago.

With the construction of two additional parks underway, eTeck is providing roughly 400 businesses across Trinidad and Tobago with access to up-to-date infrastructure, strategic locations, and an enabling environment that supports modernization, efficiency, and growth. What is even more impressive is eTeck's success in securing 100% tenancy for the Factory Road Light Industrial Park, even **before** its official commissioning. I commend eTeck and the agencies that worked with them for this.

In addition to creating world-class industrial parks, eTeck has also been driving the reimagination of landmark spaces such as Hilton Trinidad and Conference Center in Port of Spain and the Magdalena Grand Beach and Golf Resort in Tobago. I want to pay special commendation to those who have been involved in the upgrade to the Magdalena Golf Course. I think we

now have the number one golf course in Trinidad and Tobago.

Tonight, I acknowledge eTeck and its staff for being instrumental in facilitating investments within our nation's landscape. Through the efforts of just 75 of you, thousands of persons are gainfully employed. **Thousands.** This means that you help to secure the socio-economic development of the population and you contribute to facilitating a stable means of living for employees at all of the properties you manage. Your reach therefore is far and wide and should not be trivialized. I applaud eTeck's management for their stellar performance in steering the company and I look forward to future accomplishments, done on time and on budget.

As I conclude, I bid you to reflect on how far you have come as an agency and as dedicated staff. I encourage you to celebrate your achievements while embracing the opportunities that lie ahead. And I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you as we build a prosperous future together for the people of Trinidad and Tobago!

I wish you a wonderful evening and I thank you.