



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

Angostura Champions Dinner and Awards Ceremony 2018

REMARKS

SENATOR THE HONOURABLE PAULA GOPEE-SCOON
MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

DECEMBER 7, 2018

Good evening!

It gives me great pleasure to be here today at your inaugural Champions Dinner and Awards Ceremony. It is an honour to attend such a unique event which encourages displays of humanity and acts of kindness among our citizens. It is initiatives and events such as these which add the greatest value to our country's social conscience.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is imperative in the world of business. Not only do modern consumers consider more than the quality of goods and services when selecting a brand but many prioritize corporate social responsibility and hold organizations accountable for effecting social change with their business beliefs, practices and profits. The same also holds for employees when seeking out employers which focus on the triple bottom line: people, planet and revenue.

In this regard, I am pleased to recognize many of the corporate social initiatives undertaken by your organization as a whole and those by the few who are being awarded today. Angostura's four CSR objectives of employee engagement, community investment, environmental ethics and responsible consumption and your efforts to deal implement a wide range of interventions in the areas of culture, education, sports and the environment among others are noteworthy. Your employee engagement program creates responsible and engaged citizens and a workforce with greater awareness of the concepts of charity and community.

Angostura's fence line communities have benefitted from collaborations with many Non-Governmental Organisations which have positively impacted residents. These acts of kindness undoubtedly demonstrate not only sound leadership but the operations of a socially responsible enterprise.

This has all been achieved while also positively contributing to the national economy. Your company is one of Trinidad and Tobago's leading manufacturers - producing various brands of rum and the world renowned aromatic bitters. Over the years Angostura has sustained a significant share of Trinidad and Tobago's market, adding value to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the manufacturing industry.

Angostura has the distinction of being a Royal Warrant holder to the Queen of England and has achieved BSI's ISO 9002-2008 certification for quality standards and the environmental management standards ISO 14001-2004 certification. It is also BSI certified for Food Safety Systems FSSC 22000. Its Laboratory also received accreditation for chemical testing from the Trinidad and Tobago Laboratory Accreditation Service, the first manufacturing company in the region to obtain such an accreditation. This is truly remarkable!

The company's ability to be internationally competitive also aligns with the Government's role in ensuring local manufacturers' competitiveness on the global stage.

In 2018 Angostura Limited was the 4th largest non-energy exporter globally of aromatic bitters, rums and liqueurs and cordials. The company provides a model for local manufacturers in satisfying and exceeding the standards required to supply one hundred and seventy (170) diverse markets.

The Government is desirous of having this model replicated and through exportTT, provides support, to all exporters seeking to implement international standards required for entry into export markets. These include, but are not limited to Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), Hazard and Hazards and Critical Control Points Management (HACCP), and Compliance with the US Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).

Hopefully in the coming years we can have other local businesses which like Angostura penetrate varied markets in the United States, Australia, Canada, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Barbados and Saint Lucia to name a few.

Ladies and gentlemen as I close, it is my firm belief that the spirit of entrepreneurship, guided by exemplary leadership demonstrated by Angostura has paved the way for others to follow. And while we are here to commemorate the good works of an enterprise that is socially and environmentally aware we must also commend the contributions of the civic minded individuals who are also being celebrated this evening.

To this year's champions I extend congratulations, to the management and staff of this world class company I encourage you to keep up the exceptional efforts; continue to be model citizens and employers the nation requires.

I thank you.