



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

**Ministry of Trade and Industry**

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# *Angostura Champions Award 2020 Ceremony*

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REMARKS

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

DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

## **SALUTATIONS**

- Chairman of Angostura Holdings Limited-Mr. Terrence Bharath
- Acting CEO of Angostura-Mr. Ian Forbes
- Members of the Executive Team of Angostura
- Judges
- Finalists of the Angostura Champions Award
- Specially invited guests
- Members of the media
- Ladies and gentlemen

Good Evening

### **Introduction**

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Angostura team on this initiative aimed at showcasing and recognizing the extraordinary contributions made by distinguished citizens who have worked tirelessly to improve the standard of living of others.

It is an absolute honor to acknowledge these Heroes, who positively impact humankind. They demonstrate extraordinary courage, compassion and even sacrifice without ever seeking credit for their actions. Such acts of conscience and selflessness should always be celebrated.

The five awardees for tonight's Champions Award provided philanthropic assistance in several different areas, namely: in the fight against violence against women; support of differently abled children; increasing blood donations; enhancement of the creative arts; and laptop repairs to ensure that no child is left behind.

Your actions, Elizabeth Aleong, Kenneth Listhrop, Valdeen Shears, Anushka Teelucksingh and Shivam Teelucksingh – in areas critical to the well-being and functioning of any society, make you Champions of Society.

There is always an expectation that Governments can do it all. Whether that is so or not, the test will always be to us here on earth, how do we share our blessings; how can we spend a portion of our lives doing something meaningful for others.

Angostura must also be congratulated for raising awareness and acknowledging the importance of how individuals, through choice and a desire to help others, can have a significant and lasting impact on society. Tonight's event comes at a time when the very social and economic fabric of our society is being tested. It is particularly in this light, that this biennial Champions Award is so important, as it highlights the real wealth of a country –the heart of its citizens, moved to help others advance and thrive in good times and not-so-good times.

It is no surprise that Angostura has piloted this initiative, as the Company's legacy and growth are well enshrined in enhancing the ethical values of the business community, emphasizing that economic benchmarks of profit and loss are no longer the only determinants of assessing corporate performance.

Angostura's fence line communities, such as Laventille/Morvant, have benefitted from collaborations which have positively impacted residents, in areas such as the donation of school bags and stationery - assistance to 'Families in Action', and providing several unsponsored steel bands with financial and other 'in-kind' support for their Panorama preparations, just to name a few.

Like its excellence in Corporate Social Responsibility, Angostura continues to be an exemplar in business. Through innovation, Angostura successfully launched its **Cocoa Bitters** for which demand has already surpassed initial projections and earlier this year we also had the successful launch of White Oak Watermelon. Uniquely Trinidad and Tobago, we now have "Sorrel and Bitters!" How innovative! These

additions to the Angostura product line are all as a result of technological advancements, product diversification, and strategic maximizing of opportunities, enabling the company to successfully export its quality Trinidad and Tobago products of almost 200 years to over 170 markets worldwide.

Despite the slowdown in the global economy, Angostura continues to prove itself to be a prominent leader in the Beverage Industry, as its reach now extends to emerging rum markets in Asia such as Taiwan, Vietnam and Thailand, as well as countries in Africa such as Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania and Zanzibar, creating viable opportunities for the Company to extend its reach in the disruptive landscape of the Beverage Industry.

Angostura has significantly contributed to our economic landscape, in the non-energy manufacturing sector. During the period January to November 2020, Angostura exported TT\$211.1 Million. This growth in exports was due mainly to strong performance of its signature 'Angostura's Aromatic Bitters', owing to increased demand and distribution among top retailers, which accounted for TT\$179.7 Million or 85% of total exports in 2020.

As I close, I wish to congratulate the recipients of the Champions Award, as well as, their families and support teams. These well deserving finalists continue to represent the best that our population has to offer. I hope that their efforts inspire others to action. Together, let's heal our nation; economically and socially.

Merry Christmas.

**THANK YOU**