



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
Ministry of Trade, Investment and Tourism

# **Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Champions of Business Media Launch**

Remarks by  
**Senator the Honourable Satyakama Maharaj**  
Minister of Trade, Investment and Tourism

Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## Salutations

- The President of the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce - Ms. Karen Yip Chuck
- Members of the Board of Directors of the T&T Chamber
- Corporate sponsors of the Champions of Business 2026:
- Eximbank Trinidad and Tobago Limited, Proman, Republic Bank, The Ministry of Trade, Investment and Tourism, Unicomer Trinidad Limited & EY. Supporting Partner, Caribbean Export Development Agency. Media Partners, Guardian Media Limited and Music Radio 97.1 FM
- Specially Invited Guests
- Members of the Media
- Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning.

I am delighted to join with the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce as we officially begin the journey towards the 2026 Champions of Business Awards, under the theme, “In the Spirit of Excellence.” The Ministry is proud to once again sponsor, the “Internationally Known... T&T Owned Company of the Year” Award- an accolade that celebrates locally owned companies whose ambition, expertise and resilience enable them to thrive and compete beyond the shores of Trinidad and Tobago.

These companies demonstrate that excellence is not defined by the size of our market but by the quality of our ideas, the strength of our execution and our willingness to innovate continuously. Their entry into regional and international markets aids in generating employment, earning foreign exchange and creating opportunities throughout the wider economy. This award is therefore closely aligned with the Ministry’s mandate to expand exports, attract investment, strengthen local enterprise and improve the environment in which businesses operate.

Our partnership with the Chamber also reflects the Government’s recognition that sustainable economic transformation cannot be achieved by the public sector alone. It requires a confident, resilient and globally focused private sector, supported by responsive institutions and practical policies.

As we celebrate the Spirit of Excellence, we must commit to using it as a benchmark, challenging more local companies to modernise, scale, export and become internationally known while remaining proudly Trinidad and Tobago owned. We must also use it to encourage our consumers to Buy Local and Build Trinbago.

Allow me to acknowledge previous winners of the 'Internationally Known... T&T Owned Company of the Year' award, some of our local entrepreneurial giants: Caribbean Airlines Ltd (CAL), Chief Brand Products, Carib Brewery Limited, K.C. Confectionery, Angostura Limited and S.M. Jaleel and Company Limited to name a few. These companies have proven that local businesses can build sustainable, internationally recognised brands that are able to compete in globally competitive markets at any level of regulatory oversight.

I wish to congratulate the Chamber of Industry and Commerce on this enduring awards initiative and extend best wishes for another successful programme, as we continue to celebrate businesses that exemplify that Trinidad and Tobago is truly open for business.

I thank you.