

**OPENING REMARKS BY PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF PUBLIC  
ADMINISTRATION, MS. GILLIAN MACINTYRE**

- Master of Ceremonies and Head of the Public Service Transformation Division, Mr. Claudelle McKellar
- Minister of Public Administration, the Honourable Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan
- Other Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, members of the media, citizens here with us today, public servants operating the booths and displays, other distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Welcome to our OPEN HOUSE. This event is part of Public Service Week 2012. It is intended to bring those of us throughout the public sector who provide services to the population together with the persons we serve. It has been quite some time since the Ministry of Public Administration last coordinated efforts on this scale, leading up to the commemoration of UN Public Service Day, which this year is scheduled for June 23rd.

The theme of this week's celebration is from Gold to Diamond. We are recognising the Golden Anniversary of our national public service and commencing our journey to the Diamond anniversary, as we prepare for the future.

Our Minister will say more about that but first let me give you the context in which this Open House must be viewed.

As you know, tomorrow is a public holiday so we would not have the Open House tomorrow. However, today, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday the Open House will be held right here on the Promenade from eight in the morning until four in the afternoon. On Wednesday, for one day only, we will have a similar Open House on Harris Promenade in San Fernando at the same times – eight to four. On Saturday in Port-of-Spain only, we will have a massive job fair, featuring public service opportunities, from eight in the morning until two in the afternoon. This will be followed by entertainment highlighted by “Kes the Band” with JW and Blaze as the MCs.

The premier event of Public Service Week and the day we truly launch the Diamond is Thursday July 12, when we hold a massive gala at NAPA. At this event, 50 Public Servants will be honoured for their contribution to national development during the period 1962 to 2012. Nominations are still open and we would like people to nominate public servants – not necessarily Permanent Secretaries – but any public servant at any level, who went beyond the call of duty, who went the extra mile and who was genuinely a leader. I have used the past tense but the person can also be a serving public officer. The only requirement is that the person must have worked in the public service for 15 years. If you need help to find the form or complete it, go to the Ministry of Public Administration booth, we have extra forms there

and the facilities to go online. What we also have in our booth is a timeline of the 1962 – 2012 period which shows how the public service has been the backbone for stability and sustainability in Trinidad and Tobago. We've been here to help, are here to help and will be here to help as long as there is a Trinidad and Tobago.

On Saturday we had a 5K run in which almost 2,000 public servants and their families participated. As I said then, as a public officer myself, I was stunned and overwhelmed by the sea of red that I saw before me. It was one family. As we go forward from Gold to Diamond, let us as a nation acknowledge our public officers as jewels in the crown of our nation having the capacity to ensure effective governance.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me thank all of you for being here and I hope that you will come back, day after day, and take the opportunity to talk to our public officers about your needs.

Thank you