



Remarks by
Senator the Honourable Donna Cox
Minister of Social Development and Family Services

Instruments of Appointment -TTBWA

Head Office
CL Financial Building
St. Vincent Street
Port-of-Spain

Friday April 19, 2024

10 am

- **SALUTATIONS**

- Permanent Secretaries, Mrs Lenor Baptiste-Simmons and Mr Ryan Ramcharan;

- Deputy Permanent Secretaries, Ms. Wendy Guy-Hernandez and Ms Vera Deonanan-Balkaran;

- Ms. Cindy Heeralal- National Coordinator, NGO Unit;

- Mr Felix Cazoe, President, T& T Blind Welfare Association;

- Lakhan Seepersad, Acting Executive Officer and also Welfare Rehabilitation Services Manager;

- Staff of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services;

- Other Invited Guests;

- Members of the Media;

- Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good Morning,

It is my privilege to present instruments of appointment to you, as newly appointed members of the Trinidad and Tobago Blind Welfare Association (TTBWA). This organization stands as a beacon of empowerment for individuals facing visual challenges, striving tirelessly to ensure they access the resources and opportunities, essential for leading fulfilling lives.

Widely regarded as a leading advocate for the community of blind and visually impaired persons in our nation, the Trinidad and Tobago Blind Welfare Association's impact is profound, as evidenced by the 3,549 clients served in fiscal 2023.

It is therefore a mark of endorsement that the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSDFS), serves as the primary funding source to the Trinidad and Tobago

Blind Welfare Association, in order for the Association to provide sustainable support services.

The appointment of this new Board ensures that the Trinidad and Tobago Blind Welfare Association is properly constituted and equipped with the diverse expertise to address matters concerning the community of persons who are blind and visually impaired.

This move is instrumental in facilitating the organization's strategic development, and upholding good governance, accountability and transparency.

The role of the Government representatives appointed to the Trinidad and Tobago Blind Welfare Association is pivotal. Their mandate is to bolster the organization's strategic initiatives in fulfilling its service delivery

mandate to persons who are blind and visually impaired on a national level.

Ladies and gentlemen, today's appointments mark a significant step forward in our ongoing pursuit of the national strategic goals set forth in the National Development Strategy – Vision 2030, particularly in enhancing the lives of the vulnerable, including the persons with disabilities.

It is my expectation that the new tenure for these representatives will be defined by an even greater determination to expedite the delivery of social services to the community of blind and visually impaired persons in Trinidad and Tobago. Together, let us strive to make meaningful progress towards a more inclusive and equitable society.

I encourage every Board member to serve with distinction. Remember at all times you are there to help, provide guidance and advice that will lead to an empowered, enhanced and transformed Trinidad and Tobago Blind Welfare Association. The input that you make can impact the lives of persons who are visually impaired and blind.

On behalf of the Executive and staff of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, I express gratitude for your presence today and extend congratulations to you.

I pledge unwavering support to the Trinidad and Tobago Blind Welfare Association Board and wish you a tenure marked by success and productivity.

I thank you!

May God bless you.