

**NVQ AWARDS CEREMONY HELD AT THE HILTON HOTEL
FEBRUARY 10, 2009**

VOTE OF THANKS

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Members of the Head Table, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Protocol having been established, it is my privilege to express deep appreciation to all those who have contributed to the successful staging of this Awards ceremony.

First, of all I would like to thank Almighty God for his grace and guidance which have led us to this special occasion. To quote from Scripture: "This is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes". And on behalf of the TVET Council I would like to thank our awardees for sticking to the task and showing that you are indeed world-class! Without your hard work we would not be having this ceremony. We applaud you.

I want to say a big 'Thank you' to all of our speakers today. To our Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Trevor King, thank you for guiding us through the ceremony today. To **Mr. Ronald Boyce**, thank you for setting the tone for this afternoon's proceeding by leading us in prayer. To **Dr. Hensley Sobers**, thank you for your warm welcome and reminder that the Assessors are guardians of the quality of our workforce. To **Mrs. Paulette Dunn-Smith**, you are a dear friend of the TVET Council. We thank you for graciously accepting our invitation to be here and for your insightful sharing on the *Imperatives for Workforce Certification and the role of NVQs/CVQs in workforce development in the Caribbean*.

The TVET Council relies on approved Assessment Centres to provide the general public with access to NVQs and I want to express sincere appreciation to Sandy Lane Hotel and NISE for partnering with us. Special thanks to **Mrs. Winifred Williams** for your remarks today. You have truly been a 'Champion' for NVQs. And thanks to **Ms. Kim Tudor**, your tenacity and vision are what is needed to advance service excellence through training, adherence to standards and certification.

Honorable Minister Arni Walters, I want to thank you for your address and for your support of the work of the TVET Council. We note the prominence you have given to competence-based workforce development and the role to be played by the TVET Council. **Dr. Antonia Coward**, you have given us insight on what is like to be an NVQ candidate and more than that, you have demonstrated the value of a vocational qualification even to someone who has achieved academic excellence. And for this we are grateful.

Finally, I wish to thank the staff of the TVET Council, past and present whose hard work and dedication have propelled us to this milestone. I wish to express appreciation to the members of the Planning Committee: **Geoffrey Yearwood, Michelle Haynes, Samantha Jones and Alicia Sealy**. Special mention must be made of the excellent work done by Ms. Alicia Sealy in coordinating the administrative arrangements for this event. She is a true professional.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the success of an event like this relies on the contributions of external partners as well. In this regard I would like to thank the management and staff of the Hilton Hotel; especially our event coordinator Ms. Teresa Nicholls; **our suppliers:** Innovative Interiors and Design Associates and Merville Lynch Productions; as well as members of the media.

Comment [s1]: How about "our auxiliary service providers". ALSO do you want to include Best Advertising Specialty Inc (BSAI) ?

In conclusion, we are grateful to you our guests for joining us in this celebration. This year the TVET Council is celebrating its 15th anniversary, and we wanted to give 15 persons a token of appreciation as part of that celebration. Special gifts have been randomly placed under 15 seats so please go ahead and see if yours is one! Thanks for being with us this afternoon-it's been a great pleasure!

Deleted: placed

-THE END-

