

**Welcome Remarks delivered by Dennis de Peiza
Managing Director, Regional Management Services Inc,
Event Coordinator
World of Work Show Case 2017
Wednesday, 11 October, 2017, Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre**

Sen. Dr. Hon. Esther Byer Suckoo, Minister of Labour, Social Security and Human Resources Development

Mr. Dennis de Peiza, Managing Director, Regional Management Services Inc.

Ms. Melony James, Labour Advisor, Barbados Employers Confederation,

Rev. Suzanne Ellis

Ms. Karen Collins, Training and Development Officer, The Productivity Council

Ms. Lisa Arthur, Deputy Human Resource Manager, Duty Free Caribbean Limited
Officers of the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados, and
other Elected Officers

Principals of Secondary Schools

Representatives of Tertiary Institutions

Specially Invited Guests

Participants

Members of the Media

On behalf the members of the management team for this event, it is my honour and privilege to welcome all of you to this Opening Ceremony of the 2017 World of Work Show Case.

I offer a special welcome to you Madam Minister, and all others who are here this morning, and who would have been present at the launch of this initiative last year. Thank you for your support and commitment to this particular effort.

I take the liberty to welcome you to an event that is more than the traditional career showcase, where the focus is primarily on consulting with personnel from various agencies, who give guidance related to career choices.

I wish to inform you that the primary objective of the World of Work Showcase is that of building the human resource capacity of Barbados. It is our considered opinion this cannot only be achieved by way of placing emphasis on academic attainment.

With this is mind, we strongly believe that if Barbados is to have a productive workforce, it is critical that our young people are schooled about the culture of work, the expectations and demands of the workplace. We are well aware that the school curricula is overloaded and cannot accommodate all aspects of the work life programming, and so it is for this reason we thank those schools which have sought to support this event.

Today I make the call for Principals and Guidance Counsellors in our Public and Private Secondary Schools to take a careful look at what this programme offers, and to move to embrace it, so that it complements the work that they are already doing.

Let me thank the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Human Resources Development for recognizing the value that this programme lends to the national effort in ensuring that Barbados has a well trained workforce, now and in the future. Madam Minister, this programme has benefitted from the invaluable support of your Ministry, and it is important that this is publically acknowledged.

It is our hope that sooner rather than later, that the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Human Resources Development will be joined the Ministry of Education, Science, Innovation and Technology and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth in giving support to this event.

I must commend the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados for maintaining its support for this initiative. This to my mind demonstrates the commitment of the labour movement to ensure the employability of our workforce, through the exposure to training.

Today we welcome the association of the Productivity Council and the Barbados Employers Confederation, Duty Free Caribbean Limited and the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity (BIMAP) with this event. It is evident that have undoubtedly seen the value in using this medium in advancing the role that they are expected to play in the furtherance of ensuring that workers are equipped to being employed, and are geared toward being productive employees.

You will be excited to learn that with the compliments of Duty Free Caribbean Limited, the school with the largest number of registered participants will earn the right to select a student of choice for two weeks paid job attachment in December, at either Cave Shepherd or Columbia Emeralds.

Also compliments of Duty Free Caribbean Limited, there are two special door prizes to be won by those participants who have completed the requirements for registration.

For those participants who have graduated from Secondary School, and who are either employed or unemployed, I can inform you that compliments of the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity, (BIMAP), one lucky person stands to win a place on the upcoming seminar entitled 'Customer Service Excellence.' This seminar is scheduled for Friday, 27 October, 2017, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the BIMAP, BIMAP Drive, Wildey, St. Michael.

BIMAP will also provide the winner with all seminar materials and a snack on the day of the seminar.

At today's event, some participants will be fortunate to receive a complimentary copy of the book 'Introduction to the World of Work.' In order to be eligible to receive one of these books, you must be a participant in the Seminar Session on Work Etiquette.

It is important that I extend a warm welcome to our exhibitors, namely, the University of the West Indies, Barbados Public Workers Cooperative Credit Union Limited, the Barbados Employers Confederation, the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme, The Barbados Revenue Authority, Turboek Designs and the Sunjet Toastmasters.

It is important that I thank Barbados Conference Services Limited, management of the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Conference Centre, for the support given for this event.

At this time, it is important that I remind you that of the theme for this year's Show Case which is **Enhancing Workplace Productivity**. I need not remind you that this year has been designated the 'Year of Productivity. I take this opportunity to welcome Ms. Melony James, Labour Advisor, Barbados Employers Confederation, and also to thank her for accepting to make a presentation on the theme, which she will address from an employers perspective.

It is important for me to highlight the fact that this World of Work Showcase is designed to as an orientation and training programme for prospective and new entrants into the world of work, and therefore the target audience is that of young persons under the age of thirty- five years of age within the job market.

This year's Showcase will feature two sessions on the topic of Workplace Etiquette. There will be two open forum sessions which will address 'Financing for Living.' We are delighted to welcome the representative from the Barbados Revenue Authority, the National Insurance Department and the Barbados Public Workers Cooperative Credit Union Limit respectively, who will participate as a member of our panel in the Open Forum Sessions.

I wish to especially welcome the participation of Rev. Susanne Ellis, the members of Sunjet Toastmasters, led by Mrs. Angela Ramsay, and our Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Cobin Hinds, the retired Principal of the now defunct Alma Parris

School. You would be heartened to know that these individuals, whom I have just acknowledged, are either former or retired teachers; who have expressed their support for this event.

Today's show case will feature a presentation by Mr. Richard Stoute on **Developing a Career in the Entertainment Industry**. I am sure that you will join with me in welcoming the involvement of this veteran entertainer to this year's Show Case.

I anticipate that those of you who have an interest in developing a career in entertainment will be looking forward to his presentation this afternoon. You will be happy to learn that during that session, you will also be treated to live performances from former winners and current contestants of the Richard Stoute Teen Talent Contest.

On behalf of the members of the management team for the World of Work Show Case, I thank you for coming, and hope that you will have a rewarding day and an unforgettable experience.

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