



REMARKS BY
THE HONOURABLE CAROLYN SEEPERSAD-BACHAN
MINISTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
MP FOR SAN FERNANDO WEST
AT THE
CARNIVAL LIME

FRIDAY 6TH FEBRUARY, 2015

SALUTATIONS

Good afternoon

Many years ago, the plantation owners would sit in their verandahs with their immediate neighbours in the late evening sipping slowly from a citrus-based rum drink. The citrus was important to ward off **scurvy**, a disease caused by the lack of Vitamin C. Scurvy is a horrible disease with terrible symptoms.

Since the most common citrus fruit was a lime, they would invite their neighbours to a “lime”. This is what we did today and we of the Ministry of Public Administration, the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communication and the Ministry of the Attorney General are sharing a lime today. We call it a Carnival lime because of the time of the year but it could just as well be a Christmas Lime or Easter Lime or even an Independence Lime.

What these limes do is to give us all an opportunity to meet and spend some time together after work and to make our own special contribution to the national festival – a small corner of it reserved for our staff, our public officers, to interact, refresh and relax together. It is a time to listen to some of the music of this year, hear the calypsoes and have a drink or two before returning safely to our homes and families.

Our Ministry tries really hard to encourage our staff to participate in the recognition and celebration of all national holidays. We try to organize events to boost team spirit and opportunities for involvement, camaraderie and congeniality. We are truly glad to come together with two other Ministries to share both the costs and the benefits and to heighten the cooperation that should exist among us all.

Our event last year went very well and I know some of you have returned because of that. Despite the fall in the price of oil, we decided that we will not stop the Carnival and we would do all that is possible, within reason, to ensure that we all enjoy ourselves.

So as we participate in our Carnival lime, feel free to take a drink as a protection against scurvy just to make sure we don't contract it. Some of you will want to do the same for dengue, Chik V ad Ebola and may even make up some diseases and symptoms to drink to. But don't cross the limit, don't drink and drive. But please feel free to enjoy yourselves among your colleagues and neighbours.

All the best, enjoy the carnival and remember you are permitted a small wine or two.