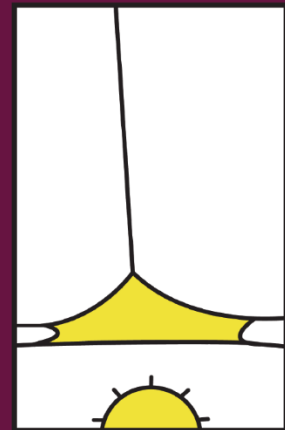


20  
24  
AGM

**TTARP**



**TTARP**  
**30TH ANNUAL**  
**GENERAL**  
**MEETING**

**28th November 2024**

# **Mission Statement**

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TTARP is a legally registered, enlightened organization,  
designed for Mature Citizens 50 years and over,  
aggressively seeking the best interest of its members,  
towards four main objectives:

- To enhance the quality of life of Mature Citizens
- To promote their independence, dignity and purpose
- To lead in determining their role in society
- To improve the image of the Golden Years

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# AGENDA

**Call Meeting to Order**

**National Anthem**

**Invocation/Opening Prayer**

**Executive Report**

**OPEN FLOOR - Questions/Comments**

**Auditors Report & Accounts**

**OPEN FLOOR - Questions/Comments**

**Elections – TTARP Executive Committee 2024-2027**

**Appointment of Auditors**

**Chairman's Address**

**Vote of Thanks**

**REFRESHMENTS**

## **TTARP's Prayer**

Heavenly Father, we thank You for bringing us together this day.

Be with us, as we come in fellowship to discuss,  
plan and implement our projects and events.

We thank you for allowing us to enjoy our Golden Years together  
as we ask You for health, strength, wisdom, peace  
and a grateful heart so that we can assist our fellowman.

At the end of our activities today, take us home safely to our loved ones  
to continue to love and serve You.

We praise and thank You.

**AMEN**

# Executive Report 2022 - 2024

The Trinidad and Tobago Association of Retired Persons is a legally registered organisation, incorporated in August 1993.

The Executive Committee for the term 2021-2024 was as follows: -

Mr. Peter Peña	- President
Mr. Cecil Paul	- 1st Vice President
Mr. Geoffrey Lewis	- 2nd Vice President
Mr. Francis Raymond	- Hon. Treasurer
Mrs. Mayling Younglao	- Hon. Secretary
Mr. Selby Cole	- Ordinary Member
Mr. Reynold Cooper	- Ordinary Member
Mr. Neville Navarro	- Ordinary Member
Mrs. Patricia Crossley	- Co-opt Member
Mr. Peter Nock	- Co-opt Member
Mrs. Emerita Sambrano-Churche	- Co-opt Member

## OPENING REMARKS

Due to recent changes by the Financial Investigating Unit (FIU) of Trinidad and Tobago and issues related to the registration of Audit companies, TTARP had to adapt to new regulations, which led to the postponement of the 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM). Despite these challenges, TTARP worked diligently to ensure that the relevant reports and documents were audited and prepared, and today's AGM reflects our commitment to transparency and accountability.

TTARP will celebrate its second year in its new headquarters at #165-167 Belmont Circular Road, Belmont, on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025. This milestone marks a proud achievement for TTARP's President, Peter Peña and his Executive team, in securing a permanent home that has been a long-term goal and achieving it within the organisation's 30-year existence. It reflects the dedication and strategic vision of TTARP's leadership,

which continues to strengthen its mission of serving members.

Presently, TTARP is hosting its first AGM in its new headquarters, conducted virtually to allow more members to participate. This marks a new era of accessibility and adaptability to the needs of modern times.

This momentous occasion gives us the opportunity to recognise and honour the founding Executives of TTARP: Messrs. Ken Gittens, Maurice Quesnel, Neil Francis-Lau, Rupert Dolsingh, Lennox Farrell, Vernon Glean, Mrs. Pearl Marshall Beard, and Mrs. Arminda Seebaran. Their leadership and vision laid the foundation for TTARP's mission to improve the lives of senior citizens in Trinidad and Tobago.

The growth and success of TTARP are due not only to the Executive Board but also to the development of TTARP's community Zones, spearheaded by the late Mrs. Joyce Wong Sang. Her pioneering vision led to the establishment of regional zones, allowing TTARP members to engage and participate within their communities. Additionally, Mrs. Marshall-Beard's advocacy for social engagement, fostered a strong sense of belonging. Today, TTARP operates eleven (11) Zones throughout Trinidad and Tobago, ensuring members stay connected and engaged.

TTARP's success is a collective effort, reflecting the dedication of its Executive Board, Zonal leaders, and dedicated members. With this strong union, TTARP is entrusted to further enriching the lives of senior citizens and looks forward to continued growth and success.

## TTARP NEW ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

On 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023, TTARP opened its doors to members, marking a significant milestone. This achievement reflected the dedication of TTARP's

leadership, particularly our President Mr. Peter Peña and TTARP's Hon. Treasurer Mr. Francis Raymond (Jr.), who kept their promises to complete its headquarters.

Despite ongoing finishing work both inside and outside the building, TTARP's committed staff never wavered in their duty to provide exceptional service to members. The staff's professionalism and commitment to excellence showcased TTARP's core values and highlighted the importance of community service, even amidst changes and challenges.

The opening of the new headquarters was not merely a logistical achievement but a significant step towards enhancing the member experience. In addition to the main office, the construction of a new building at the back of the property was completed. This space provides a valuable resource for members, facilitating workshops, social events, and community discussions that foster engagement and connection among members.

As a not-for-profit organization, the successful opening of TTARP's headquarters is a proud achievement that demonstrates the collective effort of its leadership, staff, volunteers, and its members.

As TTARP looks to the future, we remain committed to enhancing the lives of senior citizens throughout Trinidad and Tobago, standing proud in its accomplishments and striving for continued excellence in all its endeavours.

## NATIONAL ISSUES

During the period under review, TTARP's National Issues Committee, led by Mr. Reynold Cooper, actively engaged in advocacy on behalf of senior citizens. The committee prepared and submitted detailed proposals to the Ministry of Finance for consideration in the National Budget for the 2024 fiscal year. These

proposals focused on issues impacting seniors, aiming to ensure that their needs and concerns are prioritized in national policy and funding decisions. Some of the key recommendations we highlighted to the Government can be viewed under *Appendix I*.

Beyond budget proposals, the committee also held consultations with key stakeholders to address critical issues affecting TTARP members and the wider senior community. One such engagement was with the Regulatory Industries Commission (RIC) regarding proposed increases in electricity rates by T&TEC. In these discussions, the committee emphasized the potential financial strain on senior citizens, many of whom are on fixed incomes, and advocated for fair and manageable rates for older residents.

The committee also held discussions with the Environmental Management Agency (EMA) on the issue of noise pollution and its impact on the elderly. Recognizing that excessive noise can negatively affect the health and well-being of senior citizens, the committee advocated for stricter monitoring and enforcement of noise regulations.

Through these consultations and ongoing advocacy efforts, TTARP's National Issues Committee continues to work towards a safer, more inclusive environment for senior citizens in Trinidad and Tobago. These initiatives not only highlight the committee's commitment to protecting the rights and well-being of seniors but also reflect TTARP's broader mission of ensuring that older adults are respected, supported, and have a voice in national discussions.

## TTARP's MEMBERSHIP STATUS

For the two-year period under review, there have been significant initiatives implemented to increasing our financial membership which now stands at over 40,000. Our current membership status is a result of: -

### Outreach Programme

Our Promotional Team, responsible for outreach programmes across Trinidad, expanded to include 36 promoters who achieved remarkable results. Throughout this period, the team made approximately 980 appearances in 2023 and 785 appearances in 2024 at outreach programmes designed to make it easier for members to join TTARP or renew their memberships. These programmes included setting up promotional desks and conducting presentations at numerous locations, such as: -

- Massy Stores, Tru Valu Supermarket, Police Credit Union, SuperPharm, SWRHA, Bryden Pl, Holiday Foods, Scotia Bank Retirees, UWI, Amalgamated Security, Prisons Training Centre, Central Bank, Parliament, Telecommunications Authority of T&T, TATIL, Ministry of Health, St James Medical Centre, Mt Hope Hospital, Tobago House of Assembly and several different Credit Unions.

### Online Payments

As people become more tech-savvy and recognize the convenience of online transactions, we have seen a significant increase in the use of online payments since its introduction. We encourage our members to utilize this option as we continue to promote this quick, convenient, and safe payment method.

### Telemarketing Service

We are pleased to share that we have introduced a dedicated telemarketing desk to assist members in staying on top of their membership renewals. In addition to our traditional renewal notices sent via TTPOST and our email system, this team works tirelessly to provide members with friendly reminders, ensuring no one misses the opportunity to remain part of our community.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are committed to building on these initiatives by enhancing our services, expanding our physical locations, and increasing our promoter resources to better reach even the most remote areas. These efforts reflect our ongoing dedication to improving accessibility and delivering exceptional service to our members.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our hardworking promoters for their unwavering dedication and invaluable contributions. Their efforts are instrumental in our continued success and growth.

### **DISCOUNT PARTNERS**

One of the key benefits of TTARP membership is the discounts available from over 500 partner merchants. These discounts cover a wide range of categories, including insurance, medical, entertainment, auto supplies and services, household supplies and services, shopping, and other professional services.

We will continue to expand our network of partners and increase the benefits currently offered.

### **30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY EXPO**

On September 15th and 16th, 2023, TTARP celebrated its 30th Anniversary with an exposition themed **"Together We are Stronger"** at the Centre of Excellence.

Her Excellency, The President of Trinidad and Tobago, Christine Carla Kangaloo, O.R.T.T., who is also TTARP's Patron, delivered an inspiring keynote address at the formal opening. (*see Appendix II*)

The event, attended by Partners, Executives, the Media, and over 2,000 members and friends, featured over 100 partner exhibitors and was a resounding success. This

achievement was made possible thanks to our corporate partners and very supportive members.

All activities and events are planned with your benefit in mind, and we hope you enjoy and appreciate them.

### MY SENIOR CARD

Recognizing the importance of physical health, ten years ago we partnered with HealthNet Caribbean Ltd to create a comprehensive medical package for TTARP members, now known as HealthNet 50+.

This plan offers a discounted annual executive medical and further discounts on doctor visits and tests. All Members can join at a discounted price of \$1,499.00 per year.

Remember, ***your health is your wealth.***

### O50Q MAGAZINE

The production of the O50Q Magazine continues to enhance the value of a TTARP Membership, providing a three-issue-per-year subscription at no cost to financial members. The magazine keeps members informed about past and future events, current and upcoming offers, and provides insights into new developments on various topics.

Each issue profiles a member who has made significant contributions to the nation or community, often featuring a well-known individual on the cover. During the period under review, all magazines were produced and distributed on time. The issues featured Monica Samuel, the new TTARP Building, our Patron – Her Excellency Christine Kangaloo, a group photo with Board members, Philip Rochford, and Dr. Jacqueline Perreira-Sabga.

We encourage all members to continue reading and enjoying the magazine.

### HEAD OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

The year began with an unforgettable Carnival fête at Rock Back in Chaguaramas, where TTARP members joyfully reunited after the isolation of the pandemic. Dubbed "the fête of all fêtes," members came together in high spirits, enjoying lively entertainment, delicious food, and reconnecting with friends — a perfect celebration of community and resilience.

In August 2023, TTARP members embarked on a dream trip to Dubai, exploring the city's luxurious sights, cuisine, and desert adventures, including camel rides. This journey created lasting memories and strengthened the bond among members.

As the year closed, TTARP held a sold-out "Christmas by the Sea" event at the Anchorage, bringing members together to celebrate the festive season with warmth, good food, and great company.

This new year kicked off with an early Carnival Ole Mas competition, setting a festive tone for 2024. The travel program continued with trips to Curacao in April, a Hawaiian adventure in October, and a recent journey to London and Paris, where members enjoyed art, history, and local cuisine.

The highlight of 2024 was TTARP's Health Seminar at the Center of Excellence in Macoya, featuring international experts discussing the Shingles virus and other health concerns. Over 40 health and financial service providers offered resources empowering members with the tools needed to ensuring their healthy well-being.

TTARP reminds members to keep contact information updated so they stay informed about events and



announcements. Call or send a WhatsApp message if your email, phone number, or address changes.

The past two years have been filled with memorable events, travel, and health resources for TTARP members. Thank you for being part of the TTARP family, and we look forward to more community, learning, and celebration in the months ahead!

## **ARIMA ZONAL GROUP**

Good day everyone.

Members of the Head Table, Fellow Zonal Committee Heads, Good morning. My name is Keiva Alexis and I am the Secretary of the Eastern Angels Arima Zone. Accompanying me is our Chairman Ms. Carol Bain.

I bring you this report for the period September 2022 to December 2024.

### September, 2022

23rd - Movie Evening.

27th - Trip to Jammeev Nature Resort, Toco Education Committee- Fire Prevention and How to Control Small Fires using a Fire Extinguisher.

### November, 2022

17th - Visit to Dolphin's Seaside Resort, South Oropouche.

25th - Choir Concert.

### December, 2022

9th - Christmas Luncheon at ATC.

16th - Children's Christmas Party.

### January, 2023

13th - Lecture by Mr Joseph Maynard on 'What to do when an Earthquake occurs'.

20th - Lecture on 'Coping with Social and Psychological Issues by Gerontologist Dr. Jennifer Rouse

26th - attended a Carnival Event hosted by Central Pride, Chaguanas at the Chaguanas Community Centre.

29th - attended Cooler Fete- Mix and Mingle at Chaguaramas.

### February, 2023

3rd - AGM and Election of Officers.

17th - Carnival Lime at ATC with small bands, traditional animal characters, calypsos, ole mad and individuals. Choir participated in this Function by singing calypso and soca.

23rd - Carnival Cool Down at Forest Edge, Sangre Grande.

### March, 2023

10th - Social Services celebrated members 80 years old and over. Celebrants were treated with a sumptuous lunch and presented with tokens of appreciation. Choir lent support to this Event by serenading the celebrants with ballads.

23rd - Outing to Angostura Ltd Distillers and Butterfly Collection in the morning and Mall Hopping in the afternoon. The Malls visited were Long Circular and Trinity Malls.

24th - Stenciling and Masking Tape Block- Art and Craft.

31st - Stenciling and Masking Tape Block- Art and Craft.

31st - Representatives from Consumer Affairs addressed the gathering with relevant information on Consumer Law.

### April, 2023

21st - Art and Craft- Tie Dye Extraction Technique- Stamp and Leaf Stamping.

28th - Art and Craft- continuation of last week's Tie Dye and Dye Extraction Technique.

### May, 2023

12th - Preparation of Wills.

19th - Art and Craft-Tie Dye and Dye Extraction Technique.

26th - Tie Dye and Dye Extraction Technique.

### June, 2023

9th - Function celebrating Mothers and Fathers. Choir participated in Mothers and Fathers Day Celebration.

21st - Visit to Sanderson Heritage Park, Fyzabad.

July, 2023 - This is EAAZ's 21st Anniversary Month - Activities are planned for each Friday.

7th - Wine Toasting and Presentation of Slide Show highlighting past activities-information on History of the Zone to present in celebration of EAAZ's 21st Anniversary - Presentation on 'A Walk Down Memory Lane' - July, 2002 to July, 2023.

14th - Karaoke.

19th - 21st Anniversary Celebration at Radisson Hotel.

21st - Games Day.

28th - Choir Concert.

#### August, 2023

4th - commencement of Dance class headed by Ms Michelle Hernandez of MHI at ATC.

4th - Emancipation Celebration.

11th - Lecture on "How to Combat Heat Wave" by Mr Maynard.

18th - Lecture on 'Production of Micro Greens' by Mr Young.

25th - Graduation Ceremony of Art and Craft class- Display of items created- models showed off their stuff.

#### September, 2023

11th to 15th - EAAZ's Outing to Tobago.

15th and 16th - TTARP'S 30th Anniversary Exposition at COE.

29th - SEA Awards Function.

#### October, 2023

13th - Movie

#### November, 2023

15th and 22nd - Picnic at La Vigie, Paramin.

24th - Choir Concert.

Visits to 2 Shut in members of Zone carded for end of this month.

#### December, 2023

8th - Christmas Luncheon at Roslyn's, Tunapuna.

15th - Children's Christmas Party.

22nd - Angels' Christmas Fiesta.

#### January, 2024

5th - Ends Lime.

16th - TTARP Cooler Lime.

19th - Presentation on Crime Prevention.

31st - Central Pride-Carnival Lime.

#### February, 2024

9th - Carnival Bacchanal.

21st - Cool Down Lime- Thomas by the Beach.

#### March, 2024

1st - EAAZ Annual General Meeting.

15th - Art & Craft Painting [8\10 weeks].

22nd - Easter Bonnet Parade.

#### April, 2024

24th - Fun Splash- Harry's Water Park.

26th - Choir Concert.

#### May, 2024

17th - Diet and Nutrition Presentation.

#### June, 2024

5th - Outreach visit to Shut ins\Community Homes.

7th - Indian Arrival Day Recognition.

14th - Mother's and Father's Day Recognition.

#### July, 2024

12th - Pollice Steel Orchestra and vocalist.

19th - Reward and Recognition Function.

24th - Anniversary Celebration at Chacaquabana Hotel.

26th - EAAZ Gospel Concert\ Dance Group.

#### September, 2024

13th - SEA Awards Function.

27th - Colour Party.

#### October, 2024

16th - LA Vigie, Paramin.

18th - Financial Literacy.

25th - Movie.

#### November, 2024

16th - Parang Lime at Princes Town.

29th - Choir Concert.

#### December, 2024

13th - Christmas Luncheon.

20th - Children's Christmas Party.

## Future Plans for 2025

### January, 2025

17th - Abuse of Elderly Presentation.  
24th - Calypso Competition among Members.

### February, 2025

4th& 13th - Visit to President House.  
12th - Outreach Project.  
Tentative - Nutrition and Diet for the Elderly.  
28th - Carnival Jump up & ole Mas.

### March, 2025

7th - EAAZ AGM\Election for new Zonal Committee;  
TBA - Cool Down Lime [White House Manual Congo];  
TBA - Diabetes Presentation;  
TBA - Art & Craft [Bag Making Course].  
21st - Members Bingo.

### April, 2025

11th - Easter Bonnet Parade.  
TBA - Outing to Pappy's Ranch Retreat.

Also: -

- Lend support to and share social activities with our sister Zones in Trinidad and Tobago
- Overseas tour to Grenada in May.

List of present Elected Officers: -

Chairman	Carol Bain
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman	Peter Nock
Secretary	Keiva Alexis
Asst. Secretary	Carol Simon Lovelace
Asst. Treasurer	Margaret Isaac
Trustees	Wendy Maunday Elizabeth Nicholas Lynette O'Neil Patricia Young
PRO	Esther Knights

Respectfully submitted by

*Ms. Carol Bain,*

Chairperson of the Arima "Eastern Angels" Zonal Group.

Arima "Eastern Angels" Zonal Group

Venue: Arima Tennis Court

General Meeting - 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each Month (3-5 pm)

Weekly Socials - All other Fridays (1-6 pm)

## BELMONT ZONAL GROUP

Belmont "B's" Zonal Group

Venue: St. Margaret's Anglican Church Parish Hall

Meetings: 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at (5:00 pm)

## CENTRAL ZONAL GROUP

TTARP Central aka Central Pride currently hold its bi-monthly Interactive meetings at the Flaming Word Ministry Hall at Caroni Savannah Road effective 2023 due to the unavailability of the Chaguanas Community Centre. The Centre is used daily by the Civilian Conservation Corps under the control of the Ministry of youth Development. Our zone is continuously relocating its meeting place due to high rental cost, but we also need a location to conduct physical activities such as yoga, aerobics and much more.

We were granted the use of the Chaguanas Borough Band Stand at Saith Park to conduct some physical activities by the Chaguanas Mayor, but unfortunately all physical activities ceased due to renovation works being conducted at the venue.

However, given that we are a resilient group, we will continue to search for a location we can call "home".

Listed below are some of our passed events from 2022 to August 2024

## September to December 2022

- ✓ October - Interactive Meeting. Our guest speaker was Ms Dana Chung, Dietitian attached to the Diabetes Association who shared information on the 2 most common types of diabetes.

- ✓ December - Annual Christmas Luncheon at Signature Hall, Longdenville with 140 persons in attendance. It was a most enjoyable event!

### Year 2023

- ✓ January - Interactive Meeting Guest Speaker, Psychologist Mrs. LeeWah-Cooper, spoke on Mental Health.
- ✓ January – Our Carnival Lime was held on the grounds of the Chaguanas Community Centre. There was an “Ole Mas’ segment which consisted mainly of Central Pride Models. Our masqueraders performed at TTARP’s Mix and Mingle Event at Chaguaramas and at Arima Zone’s Carnival Cooler Lime.
- ✓ Members participated in the Digital Technology classes and A Book Club held by the Chaguanas Library.
- ✓ March - Interactive Meeting at which attorney at Law Alan Meiguel educated members on Estate Law.
- ✓ March – Commenced our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a 3-lap walk around the Edinburgh 500 Recreation Ground and bought awareness of TTARP operations in the Community.
- ✓ March – Four Executive Members held an interview with Reporter Kimberly Wallace which was featured in the Trinidad Express.
- ✓ March -An in-person Interview with three of our Executives was aired on Radio Fire 101.7. The opportunity was taken not only to espouse the achievements of Central Pride but also to sell the benefits of joining TTARP.
- ✓ March - An Appreciation Function was held at the St Thomas Anglican Church Hall when twenty-five (25) members were honoured for their sterling contribution toward the Zone’s success. Special homage was paid to Ms. Janet

Rawlins, former Chairperson, and a former Chair of the Events & Fund Raising Committee.

- ✓ June - Our Annual General Meeting was held at which four (4) vacancies were filled due to resignations, etc. This was supervised by Mr. Kern Williams from Head Office.
- ✓ July- Interactive Meeting - Our educational sessions continued with PC Diffenthaler sharing his knowledge and tips on the ever-growing “Cybercrime.”
- ✓ July -A Logo was designed for Central Pride which was approved by the Zone’s Executive and also by Head Office. This is proudly embroidered on our T-Shirts
- ✓ September – The Travel Committee, which was formed in July 2022 and headed by Florence Smith-Skinner, the then Vice Chair, planned and executed its **maiden** overseas travel - a 7-day cruise in September 2023, sailing from Fort Lauderdale to Honduras, Belize, Mexico and Coco Bay in the Bahamas. The cruisers were treated to an additional 2-night stay in Ft Lauderdale which afforded them time for shopping. The Committee also held fundraisers to assist with subsidizing the cost of the travel.
- ✓ December - Was instrumental in the first South/Central Bingo Fundraiser held in San Fernando.

### January to August 2024

- ✓ January -Our Annual Zonal Fee of \$100.00 per member was introduced with great success. However, some members, due to their schedule and travel plans, opted to pay a ‘per meeting’ fee of \$25.
- ✓ March - Visits to President’s House where some members were lucky enough to meet the President while others were treated to a ride in

"the Presidential vehicle." It was a memorable event.

- ✓ April – Church Service held at the St Thomas Anglican Church, Chaguanas, in celebration of our 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary.
- ✓ May – Central Pride held its (AGM) Annual General Meeting on May 22, 2024 under the supervision of TTARP's Board Member, Reynold Cooper. It was a flawless transition.

### Accomplishments

- ✓ **Membership** – Our Membership has grown exponentially. Our WhatsApp Group Chat which we use as the medium of communication has a membership of 367 as at August 2024.
- ✓ **Renewals** – Members of our Executive have been tasked with sanitizing the listing provided by Head Office and encouraging renewals. In addition, our zone has five (5) TTARP Promoters attached to the Zone who provide yeoman service in these areas.
- ✓ **Discount Partner** – The Executive continues to work on strategies to acquire new discount partners. A 'Blitz' to encourage more Discount Partners in the Action Plan for September 2024. Was a fruitful strategy. The Public Relations Officer has been tasked with following up on all approaches made.
- ✓ **Outreach Services** – We have been able to provide an 'in need' primary school student in Central with books and a book bag. We have also made visits to 'shut-in' members always taking them fruit baskets, lunch, etc.
- ✓ **Database with Skillsets** – We have built a database with the skillsets of our members which can be used for several purposes, e.g, birthday club, hone in on members with the appropriate skills to hold positions on the

Executive, Committee Chairs, assist with events, etc.

The following members were elected to serve for the 2024-2026 Term: –

Florence Smith-Skinner	Chairperson
Marjorie Alleyne-Thomas	Vice Chairperson
Gainder Maharaj	Secretary
Christine Beepath	Treasurer
Marilyn Duncan-Butler	PRO
Ursuline Hood	Trustee
Timothy Nagir	Trustee
Betty-Ann Whiteman-Skinner	Assistant Treasurer
Curtis Mansingh	Assistant PRO
Lynette Drakes-Brown	Committee Member
Leslie Skinner	Committee Member
Meigon Eastman	Committee Member
Thecla Stanley-Huggins	Committee Member
Theresa Williams	Committee Member

Ms. Deborah Garvin was subsequently appointed Assistant Secretary as this post remained vacant at the AGM.

### Future Plans 2025

1. Projected 20% growth in membership by December 2025.
2. To fully establish an Outreach Sub-Committee by March 2025.
3. Host another Award and Recognition function for past Executive members at our anniversary celebration.
4. Implementation of a Grocery assistance program for our "Shut ins"

### Conclusion

As the year comes to an end, we thank the staff at Head Office for their continued support and guidance. To past and present members, we are grateful for your support, to those who are no longer here with us, I pray they are in a better place.

Central Pride continues to operate within the objectives of the parent body especially by enhancing the quality of life of our members through our social activities,

education on topical issues such as health and everyday life.

Prudent financial management has given the zone a sound financial standing which can also be used to enhance the life of our members. We look forward to a new financial year with bigger dreams and greater accomplishments.

Respectfully submitted by

*Mrs. Florence Smith-Skinner,*

Chairperson of the Chaguanas "Central Pride" Zonal Group.

Chaguanas "Central Pride" Zonal Group  
Venue: Flaming Word Ministries Auditorium, Caroni Savannah Road, Chaguanas.  
Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays of each month (10:00 am)

### TOBAGO (CORALS) ZONAL GROUP

Situated in the Western portion of the beautiful Isle of Tobago, we bring you details of some of the Activities and Ventures of the Corals Zone during the period under review.

The names of our Management Team are as follows: -

- Chairman - Mr. Selby Cole
- Vice-Chairman - Mr. Elton Richardson
- Secretary - Mr. Rawle Anderson
- Assistant Secretary - Mrs. Sherma Benjamin
- Treasurer - Mr. Geoffrey Lewis
- Assistant Treasurer - Ms. Auldith Barry
- Trustee - Ms. Heather Caruth
- Trustee - Ms. Pamela Hepburn
- PRO - Ms. Zilpah Edwards-Moore
- Social Committee Chairman - Mr. Jeffrey George
- Fundraising Committee Chairman - Mrs. Sharon Martin-Melville

### Activities, Achievements and Accomplishments

The Members of this Zone have been steadily increasing in number, particularly since the advent of online Membership. In order to communicate as effectively as

possible with this growing Clan, a whatsapp Group had been initiated several years ago for those who choose to keep track of our movements by this means.

We continue to hold various Seasonal Events, such as our Annual pre-Carnival Lime, as well as a Valentine's In-House Entertainment Session. We also occasionally venture out of our Tobago "comfort zone" to visit several Trinidad locations such as Paramin and Valencia, to name but two. Add to the above an occasional Presentation from a trusted Discount Provider, informing us first-hand about the benefits of his/her own product, Lectures on the avoidance of strokes, the salient details and range of available information on conditions such as Alzheimer's or diabetes, as well as inspiring testimonies of various life- challenging experiences from some of our own Members, and you have the perfect mix to keep our Membership asking for more, and encouraging them to suggest other topics aimed at increasing their all-round knowledge.

In an effort to properly organize all that we need to do, some time ago, our Group instituted the following Committees: -

- ✓ A Membership Committee, to keep updating the current status of each and every Group Member;
- ✓ A Social Committee, in charge of our various fun and outdoor Activities;
- ✓ A Fundraising Committee; and
- ✓ A Visitation/Call-out Committee, which keeps in contact with the Sick and the Shut-in, with those we do not see that often, or with those Members who have had a recent bereavement.

Recently also, due to the beginning of TTARP Outdoor Promotion exercises at public places in Tobago, additional Members are joining up. While this is a very exciting occurrence, the Zone is also taking up the challenge to fully involve this new cadre of Recruits.



## The Corals "Way Forward"

The future of our beloved Zone promises to be very bright and prosperous. However, we are also very aware of the challenges which a steadily increasing Clientele gives to our Management Team. Our future plans therefore include devising additional measures to encourage even greater interaction with our individual Zonal Members. We are therefore actively sprucing up our Facebook page, so that this electronic medium can properly display all our Tobago Discount Providers for all our Members to see at a moment's notice. We also intend to use this active space to present the various skills that individual persons have volunteered to inform us about, so that, whether one has a need for a "good fridge man", or a Mechanic who really knows what he is doing, this information would be readily available. This would, in effect, be what we would venture call, an electronic active and live, Skills Bank.

## Closing Remarks

Our Parent Body and Head Office continues to set new standards for us to live up to, and to introduce new methods for all of us to implement in our daily lives. We therefore here express our gratitude for an Organization which does not sit on its laurels and expect the world to stand still, but which keeps changing and updating, as innovations appear in this world as we know it.

Finally, we wish that all of our eleven (11) Zones can be the best that they can be, as, together, we will all face, in a very short while, the year 2025 and all that it may bring. May our beloved Responsible Organization continue to grow from strength to strength, as every day, and every year, sees the light of day.

Respectfully submitted by

*Mr. Selby Cole,*

Chairperson of the Tobago "Corals" Zonal Group.

Tobago (Corals) Zonal Group

Venue: Happy Haven School, Signal Hill, Tobago.

Meetings: Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month (3:00 pm)

## DIEGO MARTIN ZONAL GROUP

Joshua 1 verse 9 tells one about being strong and of good courage. Life can be full of challenges, sorrows and tough decisions. But even amid hardship the Lord counsels us to be strong and courageous. This helped the Diego Martin Zone to face hard things with faith and confidence. After three tries the third interim committee formed was successfully able to hold meetings consistently from May 2024 to August 2024.

## Interim Committee

The Diego Martin Zonal Interim Committee was appointed by TTARP's Executive Board in September 2024 until a formal zonal AGM could be conducted in the first quarter of 2025: -

Interim Chairman - Emerita Sambrano-Churche

Interim Vice Chairman – Joanne Shurland

Interim Asst Secretary - Francilla Glauf

Interim Treasurer - Vassel Stewart

Interim Trustee - Brian Moore

## Meetings

General Membership Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month from 4pm to 6pm at the Diego Martin South Community Centre. Executive Meetings are held on the Monday preceding the General Membership Meeting at the Diego Martin Credit Union Office. Generally, meetings were not held in the month of August.

Executive Meetings – 2; Ave attendance - 5 members

General Membership – 2; Ave attendance - 45 members

Zonal Board Meeting – 1; Ave attendance - 2 members

The Guest Speakers for these meetings were: -

- SuperPharm - Promotion of Products & Services offered via SuperCard and additional Friday Services for persons with co-mobilities;
- Development Finance Limited - Financial Investments;
- HealthNet - Health Services/Executive Medical

- Disaster Management Unit/Diego Martin Regional Corporation - Disaster Preparedness and its function as it relates to the burgesses of Diego Martin Region; and
- Smile Inn Dental - The impact of oral hygiene in the Ageing Process. Samples of produces where applicable were distributed to the membership.

### **Membership**

There are two interim officers who are officially TTARP Promoters and it is true this medium and sensitization from Head Office an average of over 55% of the attendees were new members. It gives the opportunity to interact with Diego Martin New Membership and renewal of expired ones

The Interim Committee with a view to increasing the membership, is currently and actively formatting a database of financial members via email and phone and has actively committed to the rental of the Diego Martin South Community Centre for the year 2025 - the third Thursday of each month, except the months of August and December.

### **Outreach Programme**

The Interim Chairman visited one shut in member who sent her family member to reactivate her card and took the opportunity to visit her when her new card was ready

The Interim Chairman is actively working with a church committee to develop a list of TTARP members they may have on file. The membership is free to advise of any 'shut-in' they may know.

### **Events**

In this short period only one event was under taken. It was the 62nd Anniversary of the Independence Parade, held at the Queens Park Savannah, where eleven (11) members attended in response to an visitation from the Ministry of National Security

Other Events were also in the planning stages as well: -

- Supporting Eastern Angels, Arima Zone in their Colour Cooler Party- 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024 (eat, drink and wear everything PINK); and
- Tour Visit to Angostura Limited, Fernandes Compound - 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2024.

### **New Discount Partners**

There were no new discount partners solicited in this period. However the Interim Committee is pursuing one organization that has been engaged with us in business transactions. Prior to the refurbishment of its business, persons in the Diego Martin Region heavily patronized them.

### **Zonal Report**

Two interim committee members – Mr. Brian Moore and Ms. Margot Gibbons Parris were invited to attend one meeting to familiarize themselves with the procedure expected at Zonal Meetings and the presentation of reports. The Diego Martini Zone has been represented at subsequent meetings

### **Mentorship Programme**

The Diego Martin Zone has within its membership many highly skilled and experienced retirees at all levels. The Skills bank is still to be developed at this time

### **Conclusion**

The Interim Committee has been sufficiently mentored by its Chairman. They have working knowledge of the Bye - laws, have attended Executive and Zonal Report Meetings, have been gaining experience with hosting Events inclusive of Membership Meetings. They have been charged with the responsibility of familiarizing themselves with the Act No 7 of 2019 on NPOs (Non Profit Organizations)

Commendation to Head Office, the Executive Board and staff for supporting the successful role members of the Committee has played in its current journey. There are outstanding areas to developed as required by the Executive Board which can be achieved within the next financial year.



Respectfully submitted by

*Mrs. Emerita Sambrano-Churche,*

Interim Chairperson of the Diego Martin Zonal Group.

Diego Martin Zonal Group

Venue: Diego Martin South Community Centre, #1 Senior Street, Four Roads, Diego Martin.

Meetings: Last Thursday of every month (3:00 pm)

### **FYZABAD ZONAL GROUP**

The Zone's Activities, Achievements and Accomplishments for the period January 2022 to August 2024 were as follows: -

- Mother's/Father's Day Thanksgiving Service and Fashion Show at Thick Village Community Centre on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2022.
- Christmas in July and January to June Birthday celebration on Thursday July 28<sup>th</sup> 2022.
- Tour to Paramin on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2022.
- Fundraiser in the form of a Virtual Bingo was held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2022.
- Christmas Luncheon on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2022. Tokens were presented to the Eldest male and female members – donated by the PRO – Mr. Errol Blackett.
- Birthday celebration for members born between July to December was held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022.
- With our theme "CELEBRATION OF LOVE", members celebrated 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023 (Valentine's Day) at Firehouse, Penal Rock Road.
- Birthday Celebration was held for members born between January to April on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023.
- On Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup> 2023, members journeyed to the "The Green Market", undercover and Maracas Bay.
- In-house All Fours Competition was held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023.
- Members travelled to St. Vincent, Bequea and Young Island from the 26<sup>th</sup> May to the 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2023 for a vacation.
- Our Mother's/Father's Day function and Fashion Show was held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023 at the Fyzabad Regional Community Complex.
- Christmas in July Celebration was held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023.
- Members travelled to Tobago for the Heritage Festival from the 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> July 2023.
- Members journeyed to Caura River on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023 in a relaxing atmosphere for Birthday Celebration for members born between May to August.
- On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023, members travelled to Gayelle Studio, St. Joseph. Members sent greetings to our Caribbean neighbours with Mr. Errol Fabien giving us a tour of his studio.
- On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023, members journeyed to Carat Shed, La Brea for a relaxing and fun filled day.
- Our Zone hosted our Christmas Luncheon on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 where tokens were presented to Executive members.
- Birthday celebrations for members born between September and December was held on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

- Celebration of Love (Valentines Day) was celebrated on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2024.
- Our Annual General Meeting was held on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Fund Raiser (Raffle) was drawn on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024.
- Birthday celebration for members born between January to April was held on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Fund Raiser (In house Bingo) held on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.
- Tour of Paramin was conducted on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2024.
- Members visited St. Lucia from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2024.
- Mother's Day/Father's Day celebration was held on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Christmas in July celebration was held on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Birthday celebration for members born between May and August was held on August 29<sup>th</sup> 2024.

Members elected to form the Executive for the Fyzabad Green Zone at the Annual General Meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup> 2024 are as follows: -

Chairperson	Monica Nelson
Vice Chairperson	Judith De Boulay
Treasurer	Hermina Timothy
Secretary	Michael Boodoosingh
Asst. Secretary	Gail Deokiesingh
Public Relations Officer	Errol Blackett
Trustees	Hyacinth Barnard Mavis Andrews
Committee Members	Worrell De Boulay Krishna Ramdass George Jordan

Lester Blades  
Antonia Briceno  
Randolph Dinnoo

Activities for the period September 2024 to May 2025 are as follows: -

- Visit to the Coconut Oil Factory on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- A Four (4) day trip to the Blue Food Festival, Tobago is carded for the 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024.
- In-house Bingo by members demand is carded for October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Christmas Luncheon is carded for November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Birthday Celebration for persons born between September and December is carded for December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Review of our performance for the year 2024 carded for January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- Celebration of Love (Valentine's Day) is carded for Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2025.
- Health Fair to be arranged for March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- Birthday Celebration for persons celebrating birthdays between January to April carded for April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- Trip/Outing is yet to be arranged.

### Outreach Initiatives

- Food Drive (non-perishable) items in collaboration with Fyzabad Community Council was held on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- Mental Health Awareness Lecture by Mr. Carl Ryan, Mental Health Consultant on Mental Health Disorder was held on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- Lunch was prepared and served to the residence and staff of the Siparia Citizens Home on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023.

- Supported the Fyzabad Senior Citizens Association Tea Party and Fashion Show which was held on June 2024.
- Hosted a "Senior Citizens Appreciation Day" on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2024.
- A Lecture was conducted by Mr. Jonathan Hinkson, Consumer Liaison Officer (T&TEC) on "Energy Efficiency Conservation and Safety" on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

During the years January 2022 to August 2024, Fyzabad Forever Green Zone gained forty-one (41) new members.

Respectfully submitted by

*Michael Boodoosingh,*

Secretary of the Fyzabad "Evergreen" Zonal Group

Fyzabad "Evergreen" Zonal Group

Venue: Fyzabad Regional Community Complex (FRCC)

Meetings: Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month (3:30 pm)

### LA BREA ZONAL GROUP

A quote by **Charles Dickson** "*we are in the best of times; we are in the worst of times*". With this in mind those of us who are experiencing good times, should assist those less fortunate ones among us to enjoy some good times.

As one gets older their act of kindness is a result of the goodness in their heart and a feeling of closeness and happiness among family and friends – with this in mind extroversion develop.

It is indeed an honour and a privilege to have been given the opportunity to serve the La Brea Black Gold Seniors as secretary prior AGM from July 2022 until Annual General Meeting in January, 2023.

During the period under review dated January 2022 to December 2023 could best be describe as challenging, outgoing and productive, members express difficulties during the Covid 19 pandemic among other things and

show great concerns and pray that the country get back to some normalcy.

The zone continued to host after the pandemic its regular monthly Executive and General Membership Meetings every first and third Wednesday of each month respectively, with meaningful contributions. Some members were absent due to the situation following the covid19. However, the core group of committed members who had a passion for the zone embrace the challenges wholeheartedly and continued to work hard to ensure that other seniors especially those who lived alone was well taken care off and also the activities and events that were planned were executed.

### Promotions

Two members from the zone Michelle Mohammed John and Kerlin Roberts James have been working at their best to register and reregistered members at Massy Stores Point Fortin on Wednesday's and Saturday's thus keeping the membership together:

Six (6) new members was recruited by the zone during the period.

1. Francisa Gomez Bascombe
2. Pamela Kurr
3. Audia K James
4. Lydia Mc Sween
5. Rhonde Theodore
6. Daisy Preddie

A Doctor and Pharmacist – Dr. Chattergoon and Hardware owner Vish is on the discount group.

The affiliation of two members – Denis Marchan and Ezra Vaughn to the Caribbean Gas Chemical Limited Company, aim is to better assist the people of La Brea and by extension Point Fortin.

### Activities / Event

- The zone visited the green market at Santa Cruze and different plant fair which was enjoyable.

- On 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022, the zone held its end of year luncheon at the Neighborhood Grill/ Clifton Hill, Point Fortin.
- On the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022 the zone held it's end of year get together which was a success.
- The zone presented the seniors at the Point Fortin Senior Citizen Home with vouchers which was much appreciated.
- On the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 the zone held it's fun and games event at the Vessigny Community Center which was a success.
- On 17<sup>th</sup> June 2023 the Mother's Day, Father's Day function was also held at the Vessigny Community Center – with lots of entrainment, there was models, eats etc which was again successful.
- Birthday club get together – quarterly
- The zone Bingo held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at Vessigny Community Center was a success there was lots of delicacies on sale and prizes was won.
- The zone end of year luncheon was again held at the Neighborhood Grill Point Fortin was a memorable enjoyment.

### **The Group Participation**

- Angela Carty attended Princess Town / Rio Claro zone awards ceremony at the St. Stephens Anglican Parish Hall Princess Town,
- 22<sup>nd</sup> September – International events at Palmist Park was enjoyable.
- Anniversary expo 2023 – 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> September at the Center of Excellence Macoya – where the zone displays craft, clothing and plaque made from pitch.

- 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – Ministry of Health Walk around the savannah which was good exercise for the seniors.
- One of our member daughter Stacy Ann Edwards won a weekend night for two at the Hyatt Regency Trinidad – Breakfast, taxes included.
- TTARP Walk for Resilience in commemoration of International Day of Older Persons which took place at Nelson Mandela Park St. Clair Avenue, Port of Spain on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 was attended by some of the members which was successful.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion the zone collaborated with other zones to ensure success with activities and attend all functions invited to – e.g. 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2023 South / Central TTARP zonal group present its 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Bingo at the Pleasantville Community Centre – San Fernando where La Brea Black Gold zone attended and sold pholourie.

La Brea Black Gold Seniors take this opportunity to say thank you to Mr. Ronnie Roberts, Neville Navaro and Dr. Carl Ryan for their advice and lecture on Mental Health given respectively to the zone. The zone anticipated a Cake Sale and a Cookout.

We look forward to challenges of the future team work make the dream work, God bless, unity in Strength.

Respectfully submitted by

*Mrs. Jo-Anne Bowen-Delysia,*

Secretary of the La Brea "Black Gold" Zonal Group.

La Brea "Black Gold" Zonal Group  
Venue: Vessigny Community Centre, SMR, Vessigny.  
Meetings: Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month (3:30 pm)

## **TOBAGO (PEMBROKE) ZONAL GROUP**

Good day to everyone. It is a pleasure to greet you on behalf of the members of the Pembroke Cultural Stars, Tobago Zone.

I bring the following report for the period September 2022 to August 2023.

### **September 2022 to December 2022**

The workers from the Division of Infrastructure, Tobago House of Assembly continue working on our building; they have since completed our kitchen, the Toilet area and a railing by the walkway to assist members up the pathway.

In December 2022, we celebrated our Christmas Dinner at our meeting place. Members each cook a dish, some bring drinks and we had a good time.

Christmas Hampers were distributed to some of our needy members and persons in our community.

### **January to February 2023**

The year 2023 started with a bang. Carnival in the air and plans for Easter.

We celebrated Carnival with a lime among members. We had a cookout among members, since we do not participate in Carnival. We also use the time to clean around the building.

### **March 2023**

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 13 March 2023, with the assistance of Mr. Jeffery Lewis and Mr. Selby Cole, members of the Executive of TARP and Tobago Corals, our sister group in Tobago.

The names of our New Executive are as follows: -

Chairman	Mrs. Lecia Ross
Vice Chairman	Mr. John Davis
Secretary	Ms. Carmen Charles
Asst. Secretary	Ms. Gloria Andrews
Treasurer	Mrs. Umilta Edwards
Asst. Treasurer	Mrs. Christa Stewart

P.R.O.	Mrs. Valarie Ross-Justin
Trustee	Mrs. Rosey Nancis
Trustee	Mrs. Maria Blake
Events Coordinator	Mrs. Merle Romeo
Member	Ms. Wilma Reid
Member	Mr. Harry Sheppard
Member	Mrs. Pastoria Kent Melville

The group received the sum of Seventy-three thousand, Seven hundred and thirty-nine dollars and fifty cents. (\$73,739.50) from the Office of the Secretary, Health, Wellness and Social Protection, Tobago House of Assembly. This grant is to assist the group with purchasing of Equipment and Furniture for use of the group.

### **Community Outreach**

The group continue to participate in our church services and visit to some of our sick-in members. We also celebrated members Birthday every quarter with gift giving and serving of snacks and ice cream.

### **April to June 2023**

In April, we celebrated Easter with a parade of Easter bonnet. They showed off their talent.

The Blessing of our building was done in May 2023, this was officiated by Rev. Shaquille Charles of the Anglican Diocese and Pastor Bernard of the L'anse Fourmi Revival Church.

Mothers' and Fathers' Day was celebrated by members spending a weekend in Trinidad. We also visited the Caroni Bird Sanctuary; we are hoping to visit again.

We must again say congratulations to our Marathon walker, Mrs. Barabara Mackenna-Duke who continue to participate in these Events through Trinidad and Tobago, such as the Rainbow Cup, walk for Cancer, Diabetics etc.

We have since purchased a fridge, stove, microwave and deep freezer for use in our kitchen. The Cupboards are also complete. The other things will be purchase soon.

### July to August 2023

In July 2023, members visited Grenada, the Island of Spice. We had a fun week enjoying the beach, scenery, waterfalls and travelling around the Island. It was a very relaxing week.

After this, members start planning for our Concert to be held in November 2023 and the celebration of TTARP 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Expo to be held in September 2023.

### Plans for 2023/2024

- Participate in our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Expo in September 2023.
- Holding our Annual Variety Concert in November 2023.
- Celebrate Christmas with a Dinner in January 2024.
- Continue attending Service at the different Churches and participate as requested.
- Visits to some of our Shut-in members.
- Continue our drive for recruitment of new members, renewal of membership and Discount Partners in Tobago.
- Finalise our Travel Plans for 2024.
- Other Activities for the New Year.

On behalf of the members of Pembroke Cultural Stars (Tobago Zone) I would like to thank the Executive of TTARP, especially the Office Manager, Mr. Kern Williams and Staff for all the support and guidance received.

Finally, we thank God for his Blessings, and for keeping us safe in this trying time, may he continue to give us health and strength.

Respectfully submitted by

*Ms. Carmen Charles,*

Secretary of the Tobago - Pembroke "Cultural Stars" Zonal Group.

Tobago (Pembroke "Cultural Stars") Zonal Group  
Venue: Quarters #126, Cow Farm, Goldsborough, T'go  
Meetings: Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at (4:00 pm)

### **PRINCES TOWN/RIO CLARO ZONAL GROUP**

Today is a wonderful day as on this day the entire TTARP family has come together to tell of our Zones performance and achievements for the period January 2022 to August 2024 and our plans for the future.

Mr. President, Members of the Head Table, Head Office Staff, my fellow Zonal Representatives and TTARP Members out there on the Zoom Platform. I bring greetings, best wishes and love from Princes Town/Rio Claro ROYALS.

My name is **Ronnie I. Roberts** and I am the Chairman of the PRINCES TOWN/RIO CLARO ROYALS.

*My theme for this AGM is "Growing Up, Coming of Age"*

Another year has come and gone, TTARP is 31 years old and ROYALS 23 years old. TTARP and Royals are in the same age group, now approaching middle age and they both have done well, but still have much more to achieve. To quote our Patron and President of The Republic of Trinidad & Tobago Her Excellency Christine Carla Kangaloo ORTT, **"The reward for good work is more work"**

The term of office for the Royals' Executive from September 2022 to August 2024 ended with a bang. The membership was so impressed and agreed with the management style of the outgoing Executive, such that at the AGM held on September 21<sup>st</sup> 2024, the five (5) positions that were being contested, all persons were nominated unopposed.

The process for the elections were supervised by members of TTARP Executive headed by Honorary Secretary Mrs. Mayling Younglao, who was equally impressed.

Listed hereunder is the elected executive of Royals for the 2024 - 2026 term.

Mr. Ronnie Roberts - Chairman

Mr. Mervyn Tobias - Vice Chairman

Mrs. Annmarie Paul-Roberts – Secretary

Mr. Ramchand Kalipersad - Treasurer

Mr. Goolazees Chan - Trustee

At our first Executive meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024, four (4) more positions on the executive were co-opted for the smooth running of Royals in the new period September 2024 to August 2026. They are as follows: -

Mrs. Angela Guerra - Assistant Treasurer

Mrs. Carol Ragoonanansingh - Trustee

Mrs. Patricia Noel – Trustee

Mrs. Yvette Scanterbury-Mc Shine - Trustee

At our second Executive meeting held on 03<sup>rd</sup> October 2024, we appointed members to the following sub-committee: **“The Events and Fund-Raising Committee”**.

They are as follows: -

- Mrs. Annmarie Paul-Roberts
- Mrs. Judith Rahim -Cyrus
- Mrs. Shaffina Mohammed
- Mr. Goolazees Chan
- Mrs. Verna Jones

At Royals first general monthly meeting, with the newly installed Executive, the **“Disciplinary Committee”** was chosen from the general membership, thus finalizing the Royals Executive Team for this term 2024-26. They are as follows: -

- Mr. Ronnie I. Roberts
- Mr. Wallace Grant
- Mrs. Lisa Charles
- Mrs. Rosemarie Paul-Dunbar
- Mr. Glenroy Webb

Special thanks to Mr. Neville Navarro who conducted the Elections at previous AGM's but unfortunately was not able to do it this time due to health reasons.

Royals requested and received assistance from Head Office and Board members with our elections, and boy

did we receive support, unprecedented as never have we seen such support by the Board for any Zonal elections as Royals got at ours.

Mrs. Mayling Younglao, Mr. Reynold Cooper, Mrs. Patricia Crossley, Mrs. Emerita Sambrano-Churche, Mr. Peter Nock and Mr. Selby Cole, all graced us with their presence, to you all we say a big thanks for your support.

The period under review from January 2022 to August 2024 was exciting for Royals as we achieved great things. All our targets and objectives were met.

Some of our accomplishments which we are proud of are: -

- Opened our Bank Account;
- Moved our membership from 40 in 2022 to 190 in 2024. At our meetings we average over 100 members;
- We celebrate all religious and public holidays; and
- Royals established itself as the 'Hot Foot' Zone and in living up to that name would you believe we did over 90 events for 2022/24 over the period under review.

Royals Executive had a dream for both TTARP and Royals and launched our slogan - **“BIGGER, BETTER, BRIGHTER”**

- BIGGER - Recruiting new members
- BETTER – Getting more discount partners
- BRIGHTER – By achieving bigger and better, things will get Brighter

The dream has started to come true.

Today I take the opportunity to congratulate and say thanks to our Board and Head Office staff on their many great achievements over the years, but two stand out the most: -



1. Completion of our New Home. It was a great feeling to return to Belmont and as the saying goes there is no place like home.
2. TTARP 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Expo, a masterpiece of an event, great planning and executing, well done take a bow, you all have raised the bar, Royals say so.

### **Membership - Card Renewals**

Royals have not done too badly ourselves. We now consider our group as a Medium Size Zone, no longer small. We are now boasting a membership of one hundred and ninety (190) plus. Before Covid-19 struck, our group was a mere forty (40) members, since Covid-19 Royals membership were increased by one hundred and fifty (150) and as we speak more new members are signing up so by year's end, that figure will be at two hundred (200) plus, we are so proud.

Renewal of membership TTARP cards with the help of Head Office and Royals' data base, the members get a gentle reminder a month before that their card is about to expire and don't forget to renew. Today Royals can say over 95% TTARP cards are up to date.

### **Discount Partners**

Trying to make the dream come true, Royals membership and Executive are aggressively approaching businesses in the Princes Town, Rio Claro, Mayaro and Moruga districts to become discount partners. To date we have brought in ten with some application forms outside pending

Being grown-up is wonderful and Royals has grown up. For the period under review we had great fun, achieved much and delivered to our membership, living up to our motto - ***Joy and Happiness in our Golden Years.*** Which is our best and greatest achievement. For the future, Royals watchwords will be as follows: -

- Joy and Happiness
- Transparency and Accountability
- Growing TTARP and Royals memberships

- Increase Discount partners in South East Trinidad - Princes Town, Rio Claro, Mayaro and Moruga

### **List of Achievements 2022/24**

And in Royals' list of achievements for the period under review January 2022 to August 2024 we did over 100 events during that 31-months period. Royals had many great event moments but to mention a few -

1. Visit to the President's House and getting photographed with her Excellency. We did three (3) tours with ninety (90) members;
2. Visiting Parliament;
3. Road trip to South Eastern Trinidad with ninety (90) members;
4. Road trip to South Western Trinidad with four (4) big maxis visiting Cedros and Icacos Coconut Oil producing facility;
5. Attending Head Office Events meeting and greeting our fellow 'TTarpees' and Zonal members

Now unto our full list of Events for 2022/24, too numerous to mention but have just highlighted a few: -

- 16-Jan-2022 - WE ATTENDED SOUTH ANGLICAN FAMILY DAY
- 30-Jan-2022 - ATTENDED A VIRTUAL CHURCH SERVICE AT ST. ANN'S INDEPENDENT SPIRITUAL BAPTIST CHURCH, INDIAN WALK, MORUGA
- 14-Feb-2022 - CELEBRATED VALENTINES DAY AT MORUGA BEACH
- 19-Mar-2022 - ROYALS VISITED LA VIGIE LOOK OUT AT PARAMIN
- 24-Apr-2022 - ATTENDED ST. STEPHENS ANGLICAN CHURCH HARVEST, PRINCES TOWN
- 26-Apr-2022 - ONE DAY TRIP TO TOBAGO WITH BINGO ON BOARD BOAT
- 1-May-2022 - HEAD OFFICE SIP & PAINT VIRTUALLY



- 30-May-2022 - VISIT TO MONOS ISLAND – 65 MEMBERS
- 30-Jun-2022 - ROAD TRIP IN COUNTY VICTORIA VISITING TOURIST SITES AND ENDING IN COUNTRYSIDE POOL WITH BINGO AND FUN ACTIVITIES
- 16-Jul-2022 - ATTENDED SANTA CRUZ “CHRISTMAS IN JULY” CELEBRATION
- 16-Jul-2022 - MONTHLY MEETING FROM 2 PM WITH EMANCIPATION CELEBRATIONS WITH MODELING, AFRICAN DRUMMING AND DANCERS, AFRICAN SNACKS
- 30-Jul-2022 - ATTENDED 20/20 CRICKET BETWEEN WEST INDIES VS INDIA AT BLCA
- 7-Aug-2022 - ATTEND LECTURE “LET’S TALK AGEING” AT MT HOPE COMMUNITY CENTER
- 20-Aug-2022 - MONTHLY MEETING AND BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS
- 22-Aug-2022 - TOGETHER WITH P. TOWN SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER, MEMBERS ATTENDED TRAINING ON TECHNOLOGY USAGE ON SMART PHONE, TABLETS AND LAPTOPS
- 27-Aug-2022 - ATTENDED LA REINE RIVE BEST VILLAGE AT NAPA
- 31-Aug-2022 - ATTENDED MILITARY PARADE AT THE QUEENS PARK SAVANNAH, VISITED MACQUERIE BEACH
- 17-Sep-2022 - AGM AND EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS WERE CONDUCTED
- 24-Sep-2022 - REPUBLIC DAY LIME - COUNTRYSIDE POOL, BUSY CORNER
- 1-Oct-2022 - TTARP WALK FOR RESILIENCE
- 15-Oct-2022 - DIWALI CELEBRATION, MONTHLY MEETING
- 12-Nov-2022 - LOPINOT, MALL HOPPING NORTH
- 19-Nov-2022 - PARANG LIME & BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS
- 30-Nov-2022 - MALL HOPPING SOUTH, VIEW LIGHTED HOUSES
- 4-Dec-2022 - TTARP CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON, ANCHORAGE
- 16-Dec-2022 - ROYALS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON, HYATT
- 19-Jan-2023 - PRINCES TOWN DAY CELEBRATIONS, MILITARY PARADE, CHURCH SERVICE
- 21-Jan-2023 - WELCOME TO 2023 LUNCHEON
- 26-Jan-2023 - ATTENDED CENTRAL PRIDE CARNIVAL LIME
- 27-Jan-2023 - ATTENDED OPENING OF SOUTH CALYPSO TENT AT PALMS CLUB
- 31-Jan-2023 - ATTENDED TTARP HEAD OFFICE COOLER LIME (ROYALS WON PRIZE FOR THE LARGEST DELEGATION)
- 5-Feb-2023 - ROYALS ANNUAL THANKSGIVING CHURCH SERVICE (DONATED \$1,000.00 TO THE CHURCH), TRIP TO HARRYS 4 U BAYWATCH RESORT MAYARO AFTER THE SERVICE
- 11-Feb-2023 - CALYPSO FIESTA AT THE SPANKING NEW SKINNER PARK
- 14-Feb-2023 - TRIP TO PARADISE PARK & BEACH MORUGA FOR VALENTINES DAY
- 18-Feb-2023 - ROYALS CARNIVAL CELEBRATIONS- OLE MASS AND CALYPSO
- 18-Mar-2023 - SHOUTER BAPTIST OBSERVANCE, FUND RAISER RAFFLE
- 25-Mar-2023 - TRIP TO KELROSA ECO SANCTUARY, VISIT SYLVIE PLANT SHOP
- 2-Apr-2023 - TORTUGA COCOA & COFFEE FESTIVAL, WITH VINTAGE CARS DISPLAY
- 11-Apr-2023 - ATTENDED PREMIERE OF FILM “TALES OF MIND” AT NAP BOWL
- 15-Apr-2023 - MONTHLY MEETING, BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS JAN – APRIL, FUND RAISER RAFFLE,
- 6-May-2023 - POINT FORTIN BOROUGH DAY CELEBRATION,
- 11-May-2023 - MOTHERS & FATHER’S DAY LUNCHEON AT HILTON, VISIT TO TTARP HEAD OFFICE
- 20-May-2023 - MONTHLY MEETING, EID AND INDIAN ARRIVAL DAY CELEBRATIONS LECTURE ON EID AND INDIAN ARRIVAL, LECTURE ON PENSION PROBLEMS IN T&T, FUN RAISING RAFFLE- MOTHER’S DAY SPECIAL
- 26-May-2023 - 5 ROYALS MEMBERS VISITED CURACAO WITH TTARP HEAD OFFICE
- 6-Jul-2023 - CLIFTON HILL BEACH FACILITY, BINGO
- 15-Jul-2023 - MONTHLY MEETING, EMANCIPATION DAY CELEBRATIONS, AFRICAN LECTURE, DRUMMING, DANCING, “FERTILITY ARCH” WITH LOVELY AFRICAN DECOR
- 22-Jul-2023 - VISITED SANTA CRUZ CHRISTMAS IN JULY GREEN MARKET BY OUR FELLOW ZONAL

- 'CRUZERS", SHOPPING AND DANCING TO MARCIA MIRANDA PERFORMANCE
- 27-Jul-2023 - TTARP THROWBACK THURSDAY- HEAD OFFICE BOAT CRUISE, (OF COURSE, WE WON THE PRIZE FOR THE BEST DRESSED '80'S STYLE)
  - 19-Aug-2023 - WE CELEBRATED TTARP 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY IN GRAND STYLE HONORING SOME OF OUR LONGSTANDING MEMBERS AND PAST CHAIRPERSONS. TTARP EXECUTIVE AND HEAD OFFICE MEMBERS WERE OUR GUESTS AT THAT EVENT.DRAWING OF GRAND FUND RAISER RAFFLE
  - 24-Aug-2023 - ATTENDED **MERIKEN** NATIONAL COMMUNITY AWARD CEREMONY. THE **MERIKENS** ARE THE DESCENDANTS OF THE BLACK SOLDIERS WHO FOUGHT FOR ENGLAND IN THE WAR AND WERE REWARDED WITH 16 ACRES OF LAND AND A DONKEY IN SOUTH TRINIDAD TO FORM THE COMPANY
  - 26-Aug-2023 - ATTENDED TTARP TOBAGO CORALS CONCERT IN TOBAGO
  - 31-Aug-2023 - ATTENDED THE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE AT THE QUEENS PARK SAVANNAH, AFTER THE PARADE WE HAD A COOLDOWN AT MACQUERIE BEACH, BINGO & RAFFLE FUN AND GAMES
  - 16-Sep-2023 - TTARP 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS & EXPO
  - 23-Sep-2023 - MONTHLY MEETING, BIRTHDAY CLUB
  - 25-Sep-2023 - REPUBLIC DAY LIME - COUNTRYSIDE POOL, BUSY CORNER
  - 30-Sep-2023 - NWRHA- WELLNESS WALK & RUN - NELSON MANDELA PARK
  - 21-Oct-2023 - DIWALI CELEBRATION, MONTHLY MEETING
  - 31-Oct-2023 - ROAD TRIP SOUTH WESTERN PENINSULA- DEBE, ERIN, ICACOS, CEDROS, PT FORTIN
  - 18-Nov-2023 - MONTHLY MEETING, BIRTHDAY CLUB
  - 23-Nov-2023 - ROYALS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON, RADISSON HOTEL PORT OF SPAIN
  - 24-Nov-2023 - ARIMA EASTERN ANGELS CHRISTMAS CONCERT, ARIMA
  - 5-Dec-2023 - SOUTH CENTRAL ZONAL BINGO, PLEASANTVILLE
  - 10-Dec-2023 - TTARP CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON, ANCHORAGE, CHAGUARAMAS
  - 16-Dec-2023 - ROYALS PARANG LIME
  - 21-Dec-2023 - PLAISANCE REG XMAS LIME & HAMPER DIST
  - 7-Jan-2024 - THANKSGIVING SERVICE & HARRYS WATER PARK
  - 16-Jan-2024 - TTARP MIX & MINGLE CARNIVAL FETE
  - 20-Jan-2024 - ROYALS CARNIVAL CELEBRATION
  - 26-Jan-2024 - OUT AND ABOUT IN SOUTH
  - 31-Jan-2024 - CENTRAL PRIDE CARNIVAL CELEBRATION
  - 3-Feb-2024 - CALYPSO FIESTA, SKINNER PARK
  - 9-Feb-2024 - ARIMA CARNIVAL CELEBRATION
  - 14-Feb-2024 - VALENTINES DAY CARAT SHED LA BREA
  - 24-Feb-2024 - CARONI BOARD WALK, CHINESE NEW YEAR
  - 28-Feb-2024 - U-HEALTH WELLNESS HYATT
  - 16-Mar-2024 - MONTHLY MEETING, SHOUTER BAPTIST DAY
  - 12-Apr-2024 - TOURIST SITES P.O.S & CARONI BIRD SANCTUARY
  - 20-Apr-2024 - M /MEETING, EID CELEBRATION, BIRTHDAY CLUB
  - 5-May-2024 - TTARP MOTHERS DAY CELEBRATION
  - 18-May-2024 - M /MEETING, M/DAY, IND ARRIVAL, C/CHRISTI
  - 23-May-2024 - PLAISANCE REGIONAL MOTHERS DAY FESTIVAL, POINTE A PIERRE
  - 3-Jun-2024 - HOMEGOING CEREMONY VERONICA KHAN
  - 14-Jun-2024 - ARIMA EASTERN ANGEL'S MOTHERS & FATHERS CELEBRATION
  - 15-Jun-2024 - MONTHLY MEETING, FATHERS DAY CELEBRATIONS
  - 20-Jun-2024 - LEGENDS IN CONCERT, QUEENS HALL PORT OF SPAIN
  - 3-Jul-2024 - HARRYS WATER PARK WITH SANTA CRUZZERS
  - 10-Jul-2024 - LABREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DAY
  - 12-Jul-2024 - DAYLIGHT DANCE PRACTICE PARTY FOR SENIORS, CHAGUANAS
  - 20-Jul-2024 - ROYALS GRAND 24¢ FUNDRAISER RAFFLE

- 20-Jul-2024 - MONTHLY MEETING, EMANCIPATION CELEBRATIONS, XMAS IN JULY
- 27-Jul-2024 - CHRISTMAS IN JULY- UNDERCOVER PLANT SHOP, SANTA CRUZ
- 27-Jul-2024 - UHURU 6 WITH YAK & FRIENDS CONCERT
- 30-Jul-2024 - UNDERCOVER PLANT & MARACAS BEACH LIME – RAFFLE & BINGO
- 1-Aug-2024 - AFRICAN EMANCIPATION DAY MERIKENS WALK
- 10-Aug-2024 - LA BREA BLACK GOLD- MOTHERS & FATHERS CELEBRATION
- 13-Aug-2024 - VISITED PRESIDENT’S HOUSE AND TTARP HQ
- 17-Aug-2024 - MONTHLY MEETING, BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS
- 20-Aug-2024 - VISITED PRESIDENT’S HOUSE, RED HOUSE AND TTARP HQ
- 22-Aug-2024 - TTARP HEALTH SYMPOSIUM, CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
- 24-Aug-2024 - BINGO IN RIO CLARO AT ST THERESE PARISH
- 23rd/25th/27th Aug-2024 - ROYALS ATTENDED ALL THREE T20 CRICKET MATCHES BETWEEN WEST INDIES & SOUTH AFRICA IN ADDITION TO THE LADIES CPL MATCHES AT BRIAN LARA C.A.

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

I would now like to give an insight as to what some of ROYALS plans are...what we have in store for our members in the coming months as I go through our Calendar of Events for the remainder of 2024 and the first half of 2025 too numerous to mention but will just highlight a few: -

#### **Calendar of Upcoming Events – Oct 2024 to Jun 2025**

5<sup>th</sup> October 2024 - Harmonic Musical Expressions Concert. Tickets: Children \$75.00 Adults: \$150.00.

6<sup>th</sup> October 2024 - St Therese RC Church Harvest, Rio Claro.

19<sup>th</sup> October 2024 - ROYALS MONTHLY MEETING – St Croix Road Community Centre - Monthly Meeting and Diwali Celebration.

19<sup>th</sup> October 2024 - Arima St Jude Harvest, Arima. Cost: Transport & Lunch: \$150.00.

2<sup>nd</sup> November 2024 - The Lil Bits Concert Experience, Woodford Café, Chaguanas.

9<sup>th</sup> November 2024 - Hike to Avocat Waterfalls, Blanchisseuse, Lime at Maracas Beach.

16<sup>th</sup> November 2024 - ROYALS MONTHLY MEETING - Monthly Meeting, Birthday Celebrations and Parang Lime Fundraiser \$150.00 per ticket.

29<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – St. Stephens Anglican Church Parang Lime.

1<sup>st</sup> December 2024 - TTARP HEAD Office Christmas Luncheon, Anchorage, Chaguaramas.

10<sup>th</sup> December 2024 - Royals Executive Meeting- Christmas Luncheon and Gift Exchange.

21<sup>st</sup> December 2024 - Royals Monthly Meeting- Christmas Dinner and Dance \$150.00 contribution.

27<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – St. Stephens Anglican Church Dinner and Dance.

12<sup>th</sup> January 2025 - Royals’ 7th Annual Thanksgiving Service at St. Stephens Anglican Church, Princes Town 7.00 a.m. After lime at Harry’s Water Park.

18<sup>th</sup> January 2025 - Royals Monthly Meeting - Welcome to 2025.

19<sup>th</sup> January 2025 - Princes Town Day Celebrations- Military Parade, Church Service.

25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> January 2025 - Chinese New Year Celebration

T.B.A. February 2025 - Mayaro Mud Oven, Sea Wall - Guayaguayare Beach Facility.

14<sup>th</sup> February 2025 - Valentines Day Celebration - Carat Shed La Brea.

15<sup>th</sup> February 2025 - Royals Monthly Meeting, Carnival Celebration.

T.B.A. February 2025 - Road Trip Victoria East. Visit Blackman's Ranch, Local Tourist sites in the Area- Knollys Tunnel, Piparo Mud Volcano, Ruins of Dole Chadee Properties, Riverside Flower Shop then to Devil's Woodyard for Bingo.

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2025 - Calypso Fiesta, Skinner Park.

15<sup>th</sup> March 2025 - Royals Monthly Meeting & Shouter Baptist Liberation Day Celebration.

T.B.A. March 2025 - North Eastern Road Trip – Toco, Balandra, Sangre Grande, Valencia.

12<sup>th</sup> April 2025 - ROYALS MONTHLY MEETING – Monthly Meeting, Birthday Celebrations and Eid Celebration.

T.B.A. April 2025 - Visit to Paramin La Vigie & Maracas.

3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> May 2025 - Point Fortin Borough Day celebrations – J'ouvert, Pan on D Move, 'Mawnin' 'Neighbor' Fete.

17<sup>th</sup> May 2025 - ROYALS MONTHLY MEETING - Monthly Meeting, Mother's Day Celebrations and Indian Arrival Day Celebration.

29<sup>th</sup> May 2025 - Angostura Museum Visit.

21<sup>st</sup> June 2025 - ROYALS MONTHLY MEETING – Monthly Meeting, Father's Day Celebrations and Corpus Christi, Labour Day Observance.

30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 - Boat Cruise (details to follow).

### **Community Outreach Programs**

As mandated by TTARP Executive Board, Royals did some Community outreach projects.

- Being responsible people, we assisted St. Stephen's Anglican Church with repainting of the Parish Hall where we keep our meetings with the sum of \$2,000.00.
- We donated \$500.00 to a member's relative who had to do a surgery.
- Royals sponsored food and drinks to the Princes Town Prisons Youth club games night valued \$600.00.
- We donated \$1,000.00 to a member whose house was damaged by bush fire.
- We donated \$1,000.00 to St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Princes Town.

### **Conclusion**

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. It was a pleasure to inform you of the achievements and activities of Royals over the period January 2022 to August 2024.

To all of TTARP I say Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, all the best for 2025.

Praise and thank God TTARP is alive.

### **TTARP Forever, TTARP Forever Young**

Royals for **"Joy and Happiness in our Golden Years"**  
Please remember, **"Together we are Stronger"**

Respectfully submitted by

*Mr. Ronnie Roberts,*

Chairman of the Princes Town/Rio Claro "Royals" Zonal Group.

Princes Town\Rio Claro "Royals" Zonal Group  
Venue: Princes Town Senior Activity Centre, Cor. High Street & Lothan Junction, Princes Town Street, St. Stephens Anglican Church Parish Hall  
Meetings: Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month (2:00 pm)

## SAN FERNANDO ZONAL GROUP

At the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2022, the following persons were elected to form the Executive/Management Team of Purple Diamonds TTARP San Fernando.

Chairman	Carl Ryan
Vice Chairman	Irmie Mc Kenzie
Secretary	Norma George-Ochoa
Treasurer	Maureen Stephenson
Trustees	Lenore Daly Ingrid Richards
Assistant Secretary	Gloria Seebaren
Assistant Treasurer	Ann Maureen Donawa
Public Relations Officer	Hollis Clifton
Assistant PRO	Megan Carrington
Committee Members	Petrac Williams Eartha Ottley Alpheas Fraser Diana Philip Theodora Mc Farlane Jacqueline Philip

The Returning Officer from Head Office TTARP was South Representative Neville Navarro. One Hundred and five members were present.

### New Membership

Ninety-Five (95) members. Average attendance at Meetings one hundred and fifty (150) persons.

### Activities

#### Tours

The Tour Committee undertook twenty-three (23) outings over the period July 2022 to July 2024.

Lopinot Historical Complex; First People's Museum; Pigeon Peas Festival; Carnival Village; Green Market Santa Cruz; Mayaro Nature Park; Tamana Cocoa Museum; Toco/Grand Riviere; Cocoa Estate Rancho Quemado; Coconut Oil Factory Icacos; TTARP EXPO; Paramin; Central Bank Museum; Parliament/Killarney Museum; Mt. St. Benedict; La Vega Estate; La Brea Pitch Lake; Green Pasture Estate, Cunaripo; Chaguaramas Military Museum; Emancipation Village; Emancipation

Day Parade; Mall Hopping East Trinidad; and Mall Hopping West Trinidad.

The Tour Committee looks forward to another successful year 2023- 2024 with the Grace of God.

### Weekly Programs

Weekly programs included Purple Diamonds Line Dance Class, Computer/Social Media Use, Fitness Class, Dance Therapy Class, Chess and Yoga.

### Social Outreach

A Quarterly Charitable Outreach saw members donating to several groups including Mothers Union Children's Home, Lady Hochoy Home, Mon Repos Primary School and a Purple Diamonds Member, Marva Sandy who fell victim to a home invasion.

### General Meetings

Special Days and Occasions were celebrated with talks given by a notable group of Speakers: Occasions such as Christmas, Thanksgiving Service, Carnival, Shouter Baptist Day, Eid-ul-Fitr, Easter, Indian Arrival Day, Emancipation Day, Mothers' Day, Fathers' Day, International Women's Day, Divali and Purple Diamonds 28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Interfaith Service.

Purple Diamonds is extremely grateful to our Presenters including Iman Fareed, Dr. Rev. Hazel De Pieza, Rev. Mark Samuel, Kasala Kamara, Venerable Canon Steve West, Hansley Ajodha, Noble Phillip, June Doyle, Rev. Joy Abdool, Rev. Honore and Members of Purple Diamonds Anna Mahase, Gloria Seebaren, Irmin McKenzie and Carl Ryan.

Several entertainers graced us with their talents: Spoken Word, Vocalists, Violinists, Pannists, Dancers, Calypsonians, Drummers. Some of our talented Purple Diamonds Members also entertained us.

Other Activities undertaken included Presentations on Health and Wellness from various organizations.

Purple Diamonds also supported other activities undertaken by Head Office such as EXPO TTARP, their

Christmas Luncheon and Training Workshops for Membership Drive. Also well supported were TTARP South Central Zone Bingo, and activities organized by Other Zones.

On behalf of the outgoing Executive/Management Team Purple Diamonds TTARP expresses its gratitude to all who have contributed to the past two years, particularly our vibrant membership.

A new Executive was elected in August 2024 at Purple Diamonds Annual General Meeting namely:

Chairman	Norma George-Ochoa
Vice Chairman	Herbert De Gannes
Secretary	June Thompson
Treasurer	Irmin Mc Kenzie
Trustee	Lenore Daly

We thank Head Office for their assistance at Purple Diamonds Annual General Meeting.

The Executive established twelve Committees to oversee progress in our Zone namely:

- Membership and Database
- Social Outreach
- Education
- Hospitality
- Refreshments
- Health and Safety
- Tours and Events
- Fund Raising
- Skills and Entrepreneurship
- Physical Infrastructure and Procurement
- Entertainment
- Communication

#### Future Plans/Activities

- Christmas Luncheon
- Thanksgiving Service
- Wellness Day mini Health Fair
- Easter Concert/Fashion Show
- Celebration of Mothers and Fathers
- Expo showcasing members' skills and products

Special Presentation at our General Meetings to include:

- Legal Matters;
- Safeguarding yourself at home;
- Carnival Ole Mas and Calypso Competition;
- Special Presentations in recognition of Public Holidays; and
- Birthday Club.

Purple Diamonds will continue with God's Grace and Blessings to fulfill the mandate of TTARP.

Respectfully submitted by

*Mrs. Norma George-Ochoa,*

Chairperson of the San Fernando "Purple Diamonds" Zonal Group.

San Fernando "Purple Diamonds" Zonal Group  
Venue: Pleasantville Community Centre, Pleasantville.  
Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month (10:30 am)

#### SANTA CRUZ ZONAL GROUP

All protocols observed to the Head Table, I am Jacqueline Austin, Chairperson of the Santa Cruz Zone (Cruzers).

Cruzers Executive Team Sept 2022 – Aug 2024 is: -

Jacqueline Austin - Chairperson  
Janice Chase - Secretary  
Debria Isaac - Assistant Secretary  
Raena De Four - Treasurer  
Lorna Henry - Assistant Treasurer  
Joan Edwards James - Trustee 1  
Louise-Ann Francis - Trustee 2  
Norna Isaacs - Zonal Communication Officer

As Chairperson of the 2022 – 2024 Cruzers Executive Team, allow me to say to the TTARP Zonal Executive and the Cruzers Membership "Thank you" for all your love, support, encouragement and time during our period in office. You have allowed this executive to flourish and develop in keeping with TTARP Guidelines.



This report will attempt to highlight some of our achievements during our tenure in office.

### **Zonal Outings/Tours/Trips:**

During our period in office, our members were able to participate in several outings, tours and overseas trips:

#### **Overseas Trips:**

- Curacao in 2023, had 22 persons making the trip in 2 groups during the period May-June. The Curacao Trips were planned, managed & executed by the Zonal Communications Officer, Norma L. Isaacs. Both groups stayed at the Sunscape Hotel, relaxing by the pool and/or the beach and even had a little "jump up" with the Carnival Band one night at the Hotel. Visits were made to the Queen Emma Foot Bridge, where they got the opportunity to see the opening of the footbridge to allow a boat to pass through, a great engineering feat. They also visited the local Liqueur Distillery, where they tasted & bought Curacao Liqueur.
- Panama in 2024, had a total of 60 persons again the trip in 2 groups in August. Of course, when the Panama Trip came up, having heard of the great time experienced in Curacao, the numbers rose to 60 persons. This trip was handled by a Travel Agent, again in 2 groups. Cruzers again had a great time, visiting Duty Free Shops & the Malls. However, the highlight of this trip was a Tour to the Panama Canal. Cruzers were first invited to a viewing in an Imax cinema, where they were shown how the Canal was built and the conceptualization of the Canal. They then had a live view of the engineering feat by seeing a Cargo Ship traversing the Canal.

### **Local Outings/Tours, Events & Trips 2022-2024**

#### **• 2022 Tours, Events & Trips**

- Visit to Central Bank Museum
- Visit to "Erin Farms" where members engaged in some Christmas shopping

- Christmas luncheon at Woodford Café Chaguanas.

#### **• 2023 Tours, Events & Trips**

- "Cruzers" joined with the Worshippers of the Mary Immaculate Queen of the Universe R.C. Church for our Thanksgiving Mass.
- Celebrated Valentine's Day with an inhouse "Mix & Mingle." Guest Artiste Melissa Prescod was invited to entertain the Cruzers. It was a very enjoyable evening with Cruzers singing along to ole time songs, and some brave souls even got up to "shake a leg" to the music. The evening culminated with the refreshments that Members brought to share.
- Visit to Clifton Hill Beach Resort to celebrate First Quarter Birthdays, sharing our repast and taking a dip in the sea.
- Easter Bonnet competition: Cruzers" were proud to showcase their creative skills in 'Hat Making'
- Emancipation Village Visit.
- "Cruzers" participated in the day trip to Paramin, where they experienced the panoramic view of the Sant D'eau Beach, the LaVigie Lookout, sampled & purchased local fares, mingled & heard the "patois" language of the Paramin residents.
- Participated in "TT Moves Walk/Run and Wellness Festival and Health Fair held at the Queen's Park Savannah
- "Cruzers" commenced Dance Classes at the Mary Immaculate Queen of the Universe RC Church Hall. Twenty-Five (25) enthusiastic members signed up to be taught various Line dances, Kizomba, and the Bolero. So far

Cruzers are still having fun even as we try to differentiate our left foot from our right foot.

- "Cruzers" was an exhibitor at TTARP's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary EXPO 2023
- "Cruzers" attended 'The Blue Food Festival' in Tobago. An adventurous experience.
- Sixteen (16) members of "Cruzers" joined the Tunapuna Welfare League on their day trip for senior citizens to Tetron Bay, Chaguaramas.
- The Dance Class held its End of Term Celebrations at the Chaguanas Community Center. Twelve (12) members of the dance class joined members of the Arima and Chaguanas dance classes for an enjoyable afternoon.
- Fifty-four (54) members of "Cruzers" traveled to Erin for our annual visit to Erin Farm to purchase a variety of meats for the upcoming Christmas Season.
- "Cruzers" members joined with the combined South and Central Zones in their Grand Bingo Affair in Pleasantville, San Fernando.
- "Cruzers" Grand Christmas Luncheon was held at Woodford Café in Chaguanas. The eighty-seven (87) members were delighted to have Mrs. Emerita Sambrano Church, a member of TTARP Executive, grace them with her presence. She delivered a short address in which she expressed gratitude for the invitation. She was especially pleased to learn that the Christmas Luncheon also involves birthday celebrations for the last quarter of the year, as the date was also her birthday. Her

presence and obvious enjoyment made this occasion very special

- **2024 Tours, Events, Trips**

- This, being our first general meeting for the year, "Cruzers" held an in-house Thanksgiving Service. Our own Debra Isaac, Assistant Secretary, who is a graduate of the Caribbean Theological College delivered a very stirring invocation. The eighty-five (85) members who attended the meeting expressed their satisfaction with the proceedings.
- "Cruzers" dancers also started the year with a Yoga Class at the Chaguaramas Boardwalk.
- Members of "Cruzers" joined the Rio-Claro/Princes Town "Royals" in celebrating Valentine's Day at the Carat Shed Beach Facility in La Brea.
- Eleven (11) members of "Cruzers" Dance Class journeyed to Chaguanas to engage in a joint dance class with their Chaguanas colleagues.
- Seventy-three (73) "Cruzers", family & friends journeyed to El Rancho De Lopinot. The occasion was to celebrate birthdays in the first quarter of the year. Some Cruzers took the opportunity to visit the Lopinot Catholic Church and Cemetery, the Lopinot Historical Complex and the Old Cocoa House. We were hoping for a real river lime, but because of the drought the river was a mere trickle. However, we all enjoyed the pool.
- Thirty-five (35) members of "Cruzers" attended the TTARP Mother's Day Luncheon at the Anchorage in Chaguaramas. The group included Mr. Malcom Armstrong, "Cruzers" 98-year-old



vibrant & energetic member. It was no surprise that Mr. Malcolm, (as he is fondly called), topped the prize as the '*Oldest TTARP member*' at the luncheon.

- At our May's General Meeting, we had a power-point presentation on Aging. This was hosted by Dr. Mary Arneaud of the University of the West Indies Social Sciences Department, also the daughter of one of our members, Mr. Gerald Arneaud.
- One Hundred & one (101) "Cruzers" & friends journeyed to Harry's Water Park to have fun & celebrate the second quarter birthdays. Birthday celebrants were toasted & given tokens for their birthday. "Cruzers" were like children, floating around in the blowup tubes and just chilling out in the cool waters. We were joined by some Princes Town Royals to play Bingo.
- Forty-five (45) "Cruzers" visited the House Of Angostura. We were given an interesting tour and talk of the history of Angostura, its ties to the British Monarchy, how & why the Bitters was developed, which up to this day, no one person knows the secret.
- "Cruzers" visited the Farmers Market at Undercover Plant Shop in Santa Cruz for the Vendors "*Christmas in July*" Celebration. This year was the first time the vendors held the event at Undercover Farmers Market.
- "Cruzers" annual visit to the Emancipation Village, showing off their Emancipation outfits.
- Forty-five (46) "Cruzers" attended the TTARP Health & Wellness Symposium held at the Centre of Excellence. Cruzers were granted the opportunity to get their Blood Pressure & Sugar levels checked and were

given a myriad of information and advice on Health issues as they pertain to Seniors.

- Twenty-one (21) "Cruzers" attended the Independence Parade at The Queens Park Savannah. Cruzers were all decked out proudly and patriotically in their National Colours. After the parade they went to the Chaguaramas Boardwalk to cool off in the Sea.

There was no monthly Zonal meeting in August but as you can see, we kept our membership active during this period, thanks to our hard-working Zonal Communications Officer, Norma L. Isaacs.

### **Recruiting New Members**

"Cruzers " continue to encourage members to bring/invite someone to join the Zone. We can safely say that our membership has doubled since this present Executive was elected, with an average attendance at meetings now of about 85 persons, up from about 45 persons.

The Flyers, designed by our Zonal Communicating Officer, promoting Cruzers, are still being distributed in the Supermarkets in our community.

### **Renewal Of Expired Membership Cards**

Cruzers is blessed to have our Zonal Secretary, our Zonal Communications Officer, and another member, as part of TTARP Promotional Team, assisting with the renewing of existing TTARP Cards and recruiting of individuals in Massey Stores, Tru Valu Supermarkets, Big Farmers Market (Santa Cruz) & Super-Pharm Pharmacies.

In addition, Cruzers continues the process of capturing data about the expiry dates of members' TTARP card. This immediately puts us in a position to begin giving timely reminders to our members on the status of their cards.

### **Recruiting New Partners**

Unfortunately, the small businesses in our area are not at this time in a position to explore the idea of becoming

discount partners with TTARP. We, however, continue to encourage them to be added to the list of discount partners.

### Community Outreach

This is still ongoing:

- \* Visiting the various senior care homes in the area
- \* 'Throwing an eye' on our members who are unable to attend meetings.
- \* Visiting members who have lost loved ones and showing our concerns with gifts of flowers, or fruit baskets
- \* Last year Cruzers donated Stationeries – notebooks, copybooks, pens, pencils etc to the Bourg Mulatresse R.C. School
- \* Last year Cruzers also recognized the outgoing Church Secretary with a Gift Card from a well known Department Store.

### Notable Achievement of Executive 2022- 2024

- Registry Database of each Member, capturing -
  - Names, DOB, Telephone Number of Members, *(allowing us to easily capture quarterly birthdays)*
  - Contact Person, Telephone Number & relationship of Contact Person to Member *(requested by the Regional Corporation, especially for members who live alone)*
- Instituting the format in which quarterly birthdays are celebrated, in that an outing is planned and all celebrants in that quarter are given a token.
- Design of a Cruzers Letterhead
- Design of a Cruzers Promotional Flyer
- Design of a Bookmarker to mark "Cruzers" 10 years as a Zone
- Cruzers TTARP Card Expiry Date Database

- Cruzers Closing Prayer
- Introduction of Dance classes

In closing, the 2022 – 2024 Executive is pleased to report that "Cruzers" Zone has continued to be visible in the Santa Cruz area and Environs. We have added some amount of organisation into how "Cruzers" do things.

- \* Developed Databases, thereby making the retrieval of data more efficient.
- \* The Letterhead gives us an official look, especially when we must ask for donations from local stores.
- \* The introduction of the Dance Class to the group is beneficial in several ways, engaging the mind and body in an enjoyable way.

The success over the period 2022 – 2024 is evident from "Cruzers" Zone's increased numbers, and the social interactions of its members.

Respectfully submitted by  
*Ms. Jacqueline Austin,*

Chairperson of the Santa Cruz "Cruzers" Zonal Group.

Santa Cruz "Cruzers" Zonal Group  
Venue: Bourg Mulatresse RC Parish Hall, Santa Cruz.  
Meetings: Every 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month at (5:30 pm)

### THANKS

Thanks to the committed staff of M&M Insurance Broking Services Ltd which continues to be a beacon to many TTARP members in South Trinidad with their queries, renewal of the membership and the receiving of new members. M&M Insurance has always and still assist and support members with all their insurance needs with unmatched premiums.

Thanks to all our Discount Partners for their contribution in recognizing the invaluable resource we have in our senior citizens.

Sincere thanks to all our Zonal heads for their dedication and commitment.

Many thanks to all our volunteers, promoters and all the members presently viewing this AGM online, we THANK YOU!

To TTARP's dedicated staff, THANK YOU! TTARP's growth is in your strength.

The Executive Board of TTARP takes this opportunity by Extending Season Greetings to each of you.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mayling Younglao', written over a horizontal dotted line.

**Mayling Younglao**  
**Hon. Secretary.**

*Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of November 2024*

Appendix I

TTARP Budget Proposal/Recommendations for 2024/2025

Theme I: Nurturing Our Greatest Assets

Key Result Area: Sustainable Families and Communities

V2030 Goals (G) & National Outcomes (N.O)	Proposed Initiative(s) & BRIEF Description
<b>G: The healthcare system will be sustainable and modern and deliver higher standards of healthcare</b> <i>N.O: Improved Health Service Delivery</i>	Health information systems should be improved by collecting and analysing more basic data on the number of senior citizens, and their ailments, in the public healthcare system. Policy makers and planners can use this information to improve the social safety net programs. Senior Citizens should also be facilitated on certain days when seeking routine medical checkups throughout Trinidad and Tobago. TTARP can provide volunteer support at government health institutions and facilities in Trinidad and Tobago to implement this initiative.
<b>G: The people will be empowered to lead healthy lifestyles</b> <i>N.O: Healthy Lifestyles Adopted</i>	Priority should be given for senior citizens to access (a) regular public health education programmes promoting healthy lifestyles, and (b) physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy. When initiated early and successfully, can significantly improve the rehabilitative/curative outcomes for patients. This can also decrease the length of stay and re-hospitalisation of elderly patients. TTARP can provide volunteer support and assistance at government health institutions and facilities in Trinidad and Tobago to implement this initiative.
<b>G: Citizens will have access to adequate and affordable housing</b> <i>N.O: Enhanced Effectiveness of the Housing System</i>	(A) Property tax liabilities of house owner-occupier, 60 years and over, with an annual income below \$42,000.00 (\$3,500.00 monthly), should be discounted.  (B) Introduce rent control for senior citizens that places a limit on the amount that a landlord can demand for renewing a lease on an apartment or room. This is intended to keep living expenses affordable for lower-income senior residents.

## Theme II: *Deliverance Good Governance and Service Excellence*

### Key Result Area: *Full Participation and Citizen Engagement at all Levels*

V2030 Goals (G) & National Outcomes (N.O)	Proposed Initiative(s) & BRIEF Description
<b>G: Our Governance will be based on principles of participation and inclusion</b> <i>N.O: Representative Participation by all Citizens and Interest Groups in Governance</i>	Amend Equal Opportunity Act 2010 to prohibit age discrimination in all sectors of the society
<b>G: Public Service delivery will be customer-focused</b> <i>N.O: A Customer-Centric Public Service</i>	There should be dedicated trained staff at <b>specific</b> public service delivery offices such as passport, driver's license, national ID cards etc., on special days each month to specifically treat with providing services to senior citizens. TTARP can provide volunteer support at government facilities in Trinidad and Tobago to implement this initiative.

## Theme III: *Improving Productivity through Quality Infrastructure and Transport*

### Key Result Area: *A High Quality Resilient Public Utilities System*

V2030 Goals (G) & National Outcomes (N.O)	Proposed Initiative(s) & BRIEF Description
<b>G: A safe and operationally efficient transport system</b> <i>N.O: Improved Access to a Quality Mass Transit System</i>	Expansion of the Water Taxi Service to Point Fortin, Central Trinidad, Cocorite and/or Carenage to relieve traffic congestion on the roads and reduce gas consumption. This measure will enhance the mass public transportation system in Trinidad.

## Theme V: *Placing the Environment at the Centre of Social and Economic Development*

### Key Result Area: *A Clean and Health Environment*

V2030 Goals (G) & National Outcomes (N.O)	Proposed Initiative(s) & BRIEF Description
<b>G: Carbon footprint will be reduced</b> <i>N.O: Reduced Fossil Fuel Use</i>	Tax rebate on fully installed CNG and Electric Kits to Senior Citizens (60 years and over) who own and drive private motor vehicles.



# TTARP

## ADDRESS BY HER EXCELLENCY

CHRISTINE CARLA KANGALOO O.R.T.T.

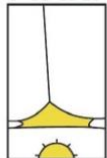
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

AT THE TTARP 30TH ANNIVERSARY EXPO

19 SEPTEMBER 2023

**TOGETHER**  
We Are **STRONGER**

TTARP



National Award 2019  
Hummingbird Medal - Gold



I am delighted to be able to join you this morning, as TTARP celebrates its 30th anniversary. The theme of this year's anniversary celebrations is, as we have heard, "Together We Are Stronger". I could not have imagined a better theme, myself. In fact, when



HER EXCELLENCY CHRISTINE CARLA KANGALOO O.R.T.T.

one thinks about it, the words "Together We Are Stronger" are apt, not just as a theme for our anniversary celebrations, but as a powerful reminder to the entire country of the need **for our citizenry to collaborate and cooperate with one another in our march towards community development and national advancement.**

You will notice that I have spoken about "our" anniversary celebrations.

This is not simply because I am qualified, by reason of my age, to be part of the organization (my husband has already teased me and told me that I am way over-qualified where that is concerned); rather, it is because I have had not only the good fortune to have been invited to be the organization's patron, but, so my husband has also told me (although, in this respect, he happens to be right), I have also had the good sense to have accepted that kind invitation. And so, I have spoken about "our" anniversary celebrations, in thankful recognition of the gift which the Universe has so kindly given me of this opportunity to be joined with you, in more ways than one.

**For 30 years, TTARP has been working tirelessly to enable persons aged 50 years and over to fulfil their greatest potential.**

One of the reasons I embraced the opportunity to be patron of the organization so readily, is the invaluable and essential service the organization provides to people in their golden—and, I dare say, their best—years. The other is because **TTARP, as a non-profit civil organization, is, I believe, a reflection of what is best about Trinidad and Tobago – our people's willingness to give of themselves, in service to others, without seeking the least reward.**

Honouring our forebears and all who have gone before us, by making proper provisions for them in their later years, is a noble endeavour.

In the Christian Bible, it is the only commandment to which a promise is attached: "Honour thy Father and thy Mother, and thy days shall be long in the land". In West Indian societies, elder people have long occupied a special place in the family unit. Elder persons help raise grandchildren or other children of the family; ensure that valuable life skills and wisdom are passed on; and are often the glue that binds together the entire family unit. In the wider community, they are the stalwarts, community leaders and people who can be counted on to impart pearls of wisdom, knowledge and experience.





TTARP PRESIDENT PETER PEÑA

**Having worked for decades; raised generations; and contributed to the social and economic wellbeing of the country in both tangible and intangible ways, elder people have earned the right to be honoured.**

**TTARP helps our nation to honour our elder population by advocating for and assisting them in many ways.**

This year's anniversary Expo showcases just some of the many products and services that are geared specifically towards elder persons, by which TTARP tangibly honours our elder population. These include impressive discounts on a wide range of goods and services in more than sixty-two categories throughout Trinidad and Tobago. I look forward to viewing the 'World of TTARP' exhibition later, which is sure to answer more than a few of the public's questions about TTARP, and provide a deeper insight into what membership in TTARP means and all that membership has to offer.

Ageing can, and should be, a wonderful thing. In fact, some say that life begins at 50. However, growing older does come with specific issues and concerns, many of which TTARP's efforts have gone a long way towards alleviating.

**One of the paramount concerns about getting older, is financial wellness. Retirement can mean financial insecurity as a result of the loss of an income.**

It can also leave one face-to-face with the inadequacy of one's savings; and, where we depend on job-related retirement benefits, retirement can mean

immeasurable stress when, as often happens, there are delays in receiving those benefits. Even if one is not retired, one can find oneself spending quite a lot of money on health and health-related issues, as one grows older. It is in this sphere - of mitigating **the financial vulnerability of elder persons - that TTARP has perhaps most famously distinguished itself. TTARP has done so by entering into relationships with 400 discount partners and securing preferential rates for its members across a wide category of services, including optical, medical, dental, grocery items, insurance, utilities and much more.**

We—and notice I say 'we'—are spoilt for choice when it comes to the products and discounts TTARP has made available to help defray our daily expenses and enable us to put up a better fight against rising prices. Thank you TTARP!

**Another challenge which many of us face as we get older, is that of isolation and loneliness.**

With time, children leave the home and get married; friends move into different neighbourhoods or pass away; and colleagues retire early and abandon us at our workplaces. Mobility and other physical limitations brought on by the ageing process, prevent some of us from participating in the activities we love – further reinforcing our sense of isolation.

**TTARP has stepped into this space as well, and provides a variety of opportunities for social engagement - with events such as international and local trips; and functions and limes as a TTARP family within various colourfully-named zones.**

I was amused to learn some of the zone names— the 'Eastern Angels' of Arima; 'Royals' of Princes Town/Rio Claro; 'Purple Diamonds' of San Fernando;



and how can one forget the 'Corals' from Tobago!

Outings and events such as these provide an opportunity for social engagement and promote a sense of belonging for us as we age. Events such as these also help make the case that I advanced at the beginning of this address, that there could not be a better theme than **"Together We Are Stronger"** where TTARP is concerned. As an organization, TTARP truly understands and operates by this theme.



From left to right: Francis Raymond (TTARP Honorary Treasurer) Dr. Jennifer Rouse (Gerontologist), Her Excellency Christine Carla Kangaloo O.R.T.T., Peter Peña (TTARP President), Mayling Younglao (TTARP Honorary Secretary), Reynold Cooper (TTARP Executive Member)

**Through TTARP's efforts, many of us can now find community and friendship as we age, comfortable in the knowledge that we are not alone. Through TTARP's efforts, our nation honours our elder population.**

I could go on and on, for days and days, about what TTARP has to offer - but then I suppose that would defeat the whole purpose of our Expo!

**Permit me, therefore, to walk down a slightly different road, and to focus TTARP's attention on the critical role that I believe the organization can, and should play,** in what I described, when I began, as our country's march towards community development and national advancement.

**I am speaking here about the role of mentorship. I referred earlier to the role that our elder citizens play in ensuring that valuable life skills and wisdom are passed on. I respectfully suggest that there is in our country, today more than ever, a growing need for elder citizens to mentor their younger charges.**

Looking around at our country today, we see too many examples of our youth gone astray – we see too many of them succumbing to the lure of all forms of antisocial and criminal conduct.

**I believe that positive and appropriate mentorship for our nation's youth and younger adults, is a critical tool in showing our young people better ways to be; and in showing them better lives to live.**

**And I wonder whether TTARP, by reason of the unique attributes of its members, might not well be in the perfect position to provide the very type of mentorship that I believe our young people need at this time. TTARP has, for example, among its members, some of the most distinguished and capable elder citizens this country has ever produced.**

**As I understand it, TTARP's membership comprises a wide cross-section of persons from every sector of the society, and from every field of social and cultural endeavour.**

And it is there, I believe, that TTARP has an advantage that few other organizations have – the advantage of a ready, an available, and an organized pool of mature members who have worked, lived and experienced almost every walk of life; many of whom are no longer weighed down by the responsibilities of daily employment and whose time and talents can therefore be turned towards mentoring youths and young adults.

**The beneficial effects of positive and appropriate mentorship upon the youth population and by extension, upon the wider society, hardly need to be stated.**

They include: increased secondary-school graduation rates; lower-secondary school dropout rates; healthier relationships and lifestyle choices; better attitudes about schooling and education in general; higher tertiary-enrolment rates; higher educational aspirations; enhanced self-esteem and self-confidence; improved behaviour,



both at home and at school; stronger relationships with parents, teachers, and peers; improved interpersonal skills; and a decreased likelihood of starting drug and alcohol use.

**This is why I believe that, with appropriate mentorship, our country will put itself in a better position to develop healthier, happier communities and to advance as a people and as a nation.**

And, as I have said, I believe that TTARP's membership are perfectly poised to provide the required mentorship. Perhaps, for example, such mentorship

other, more formal means, I am confident that TTARP is possessed of both the imagination the human- resource capacity, to mentor our nation's youths and young adults, extremely successfully.

**And so, I want to encourage TTARP's leadership, not only to keep up the Herculean work that it has been undertaking for the last 30 years, but, in the months and years ahead, to add to its already impressive body of work, a focused concentration on mentoring our nation's youths and young adults.**

my suggestion diminishes the likelihood that I will be invited to deliver the feature address at next year's anniversary celebrations, at least it will have made my father proud.

I know that I am certainly proud this morning.

**I am proud to be the patron of this organization. I am proud of how TTARP has continued to advocate for the elder population of Trinidad and Tobago, and of how it has kept pace with the times, allowing persons to apply online to become members and providing other valuable information via its social media pages. And I am proud of all that I know TTARP will continue to do and to accomplish in our country as we, all of us, pull together in the knowledge that "Together We Are Stronger".**

And so, let me in closing, once again wish TTARP a happy 30th anniversary. I am happy to join TTARP as we host our 30th anniversary Expo. I look forward to viewing the many products and services on offer— and who knows, perhaps I will yield to my husband's teasing and avail myself of some of them!

Happy Anniversary and I wish you many, many more productive years to come.

\* \* \* \* \*



BISHOP ANSTEY HIGH SCHOOL STEEL ENSEMBLE

might include inviting more young people to TTARP's outings and events, where they can mingle with their elders in a relaxed environment.

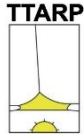
It is said that the '4 Cs' of a successful mentoring programme are Conversation, Connection, Community, and Culture. TTARP's outings and events supply them all, and in ample measure. Whether by means of these outings and events, or by

When he was alive, my father, who was perhaps the greatest mentor in my own life, was often fond of saying that 'The only reward for good work, is more work'. And so – there it is: for all of TTARP's good work for the last 30 years, I have taken the liberty this morning of suggesting that it might consider undertaking some more work, this time in the area of concentrated mentorship. If

### TTARP ... an Association of Responsible Persons

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Tel: (868) 622-9223, 221-7771 | WhatsApp: 497-2687

# Appendix III



## TTARP BENEFITS

### **BENEFITS FOR PERSONS AGE 50+**

TTARP negotiated/implemented for its Members, a wide variety of discounts for purchases at numerous Commercial, Medical and Retail enterprises. *These are being added to on an ongoing basis. Check the TTARP Directory for providers in Trinidad and Tobago.*

### **BENEFITS FOR PERSONS AGE 60+**

The following are TTARP's Recommendations to the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT) and others on behalf of Senior Citizens which are now in effect: -

1. Fee Exemption for the renewal of a Trinidad and Tobago Passport.
2. Fee Exemption for the renewal of a Trinidad and Tobago Driver's Permit.
3. Exemption from Trinidad and Tobago Airport Departure Tax on Airline Tickets.
4. Tax Exemption on premium payments for General Insurance Policies (*e.g. House and Car*).
5. Free PTSC Bus rides in Trinidad and Tobago with presentation of National Identification Card or Driver's Permit.
6. Free rides on the Water Taxi between POS and San Fernando with presentation of National Identification Card or Driver's Permit.
7. Fee Exemption on certain bank services (*e.g. Bank Drafts and bank statements for US Visas*).
8. Preferential rates on fixed deposits at Financial Institutions.
9. Increased the range of CDAP medications for ailments common to Senior Citizens.
10. Extended Medical Care hours of services at community Centers from 7am to 4pm, to 7am to 7pm, and in certain areas from 7am to 10pm.
11. The Senior Citizens Grant has been increased to \$3,500 (max) per month dependent on a means test for other Retirement Income from NIS and Occupational Pensions which must not exceed \$5,500 per month.
12. Retiring Government employees will now receive an interim pension of thirty-five hundred dollars (\$3,500), while their work records are processed, when verified, the retired employee will – receive the correct pension and a lump sum for arrears.
13. Residents of Trinidad and Tobago, both nationals and non-nationals, will no longer be required to submit a Life Certificate twice per year to continue receiving their NIS Pensions.
14. Retired Government Pensioners who are nationals of Trinidad and Tobago, will no longer be required to present themselves as proof of life existence if they submit their birth certificate PIN number to the Pensions Management Branch, Treasury Division.
15. Walk-Over constructed in Port of Spain, with a wheelchair ramp to assist senior citizens and others travelling to and from the Tobago Ferry Port and Water Taxi service.

### **OTHER**

In context of approved GORTT National Budget 2021/2022 the following are some additional improvements which Senior Citizens (and Others) shall enjoy: -

- a. All first-time home owners will qualify for a tax-free allowance of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000).
- b. Employed persons will benefit from a personal tax deduction allowance up to a maximum of \$60,000 on combined contributions to approved pension funds, annuity plans and National Insurance.
- c. Value Added Tax (VAT) has been removed from many basic food items, such as biscuits, cooking oil, canned vegetables, canned meat and fish, cornflakes, curry, juice, sausages, ham, ketchup, pigtail, and bottled water.
- d. Electricity and Water rate rebates to be increased from 25% to 30% for bills LESS THAN Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00).
- e. Removal of VAT and Duties on therapy equipment for treatment of vision, hearing and physical disabilities.
- f. Removal of VAT and Import duties on computer equipment which should make these important communication devices cheaper.
- g. All Citizens will have access to Free WIFI internet connections at Transport Hubs, Public Hospitals, Schools and Libraries.
- h. Increase Non-taxable Annual Income allowances to \$90,000 for all citizens.
- i. All taxes (including Customs Duty, Online Purchase Tax and Value Added Tax) on individual components in CCTV systems, including cameras and DVRs, are waived with effect from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2023.
- j. There is a collaboration between the Ministry of Social Development & Family Services, iGovTT and TTConnect to allow senior citizens to submit their Life Declaration Certificate Form by calling the toll free number 800-8826 for an appointment.



## ***TTARP Offices***

<b>NORTH</b>	<b>#45 Tragarete Road, Port of Spain</b>	<b>622-9223 / 221-7771</b> <b>497-2687</b> (Whats App contact)
<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>M&amp;M Insurance Broking Services Ltd. Room 303, Cross Crossing Shopping Centre, San Fernando</b>	<b>657-2256/2343</b>

## ***Zonal Group Contacts***

<b>Arima</b>	Chairman – Ms. Carol Bain	754-0077
<b>Belmont</b>	Chairman – Ms. Sandra Morgan	792-0263
<b>Central</b>	Chairman – Mrs. Florence Smith-Skinner	757-0858
<b>Diego Martin</b>	Interim Chairman – Mrs. Sambrano-Churche	758-4601
<b>Fyzabad</b>	Chairman – Ms. Monica Nelson	649-1866 / 394-5571
<b>La Brea</b>	Chairman – Mr. Denis Marchan	774-2701
<b>Princes Town/ Rio Claro</b>	Chairman – Mr. Ronnie Roberts	375-5112 / 656-2149
<b>Santa Cruz</b>	Chairman – Ms. Jacqueline Austin	396-6389
<b>San Fernando</b>	Chairman – Mrs. Norma George-Ocho	330-0437 / 374-0701
<b>Tobago (Corals)</b>	Chairman – Mr. Selby Cole	753-2760
<b>Tobago (Pembroke)</b>	Chairman – Ms. Lecia Ross	780-3761

**TTARP...an Association of Responsible Persons**

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