



# RISING TOGETHER TOWARDS GREATER PROSPERITY



50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE  
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

## INTRODUCTORY MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

**O**n August 31st, Trinidad and Tobago proudly commemorates its Golden Jubilee of Independence – 50 years during which we have experienced tragedy, triumph and transformation.

This commemorative publication offers an insight into how we define ourselves as citizens of a sovereign young Nation. From our commitment to democracy and the rule of Law, to our innate innovativeness and creativity which has gifted the world the melodious sounds of the steel pan and the colour and vibrancy of our Carnival; we are a people and a country with much to share, notwithstanding our small size.

We remain a sterling example of political stability, religious tolerance and economic resilience. Our cultural diversity strengthens rather than divides us, affirming our ability to stand together and remain one People, one Nation. Our citizens enjoy the rights and freedoms enshrined in our Constitution, consistent with International policy and agreements. Without hesitation I can state, “We can boast of our unity and we take pride in our liberty.”

As a citizen or national of Trinidad and Tobago, when you peruse the pages of this book, you will immediately recognise that there is much for us to celebrate on this historic occasion. If you are a foreign national, I invite you to allow this publication to awaken you to a country of varied faces and facets, now striding confidently into another 50 years of robust development.

Fellow citizens, we have now come to a defining moment in our history. How shall we choose to approach our next 50 years of Independence?

I believe that to continue to prosper, we must rise above partisan agendas in the interest of the greater national good. Yes, there will be conflicts and challenges, but ultimately out of these struggles we must accomplish lasting growth and development.

The world is moving in a different direction, dominated by several emerging economies, providing opportunities for new alliances and broadening the scope of our economic strategies.

The old partnerships now co-exist with new-found, developing relationships. This is a bold new world of more complex and sophisticated methods of doing business. This is the world we must be prepared to step into to take our place on the world stage.

I believe that we are up to the challenge. Our best days are yet to come. But we must work together – the public and private sectors, members of civil society, workers and their unions, young persons, senior citizens, individuals. Let us not focus on what might divide us and instead, with determination and loyalty, rise together to ensure the prosperity of our nation and the happiness and success of all our citizens.

May God Bless our great Nation, Trinidad and Tobago.

Happy 50th anniversary of Independence! ■

**THE HON KAMLA  
PERSAD-BISSESSAR**

Prime Minister of the  
Republic of Trinidad  
and Tobago