



DIVISION OF FINANCE AND THE ECONOMY

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FORUM

16th NOVEMBER, 2018 • MAGDALENA GRAND BEACH AND GOLF RESORT

Agenda

Harnessing Technology for Growth



Agenda

TIME	ITEM	FACILITATOR
8:00 a.m.	Registration	
8:30 a.m.	Safety Briefing National Anthem Opening Prayer	REV. BELINDA MANSWELL-DANIEL
8:37 a.m.	Introduction of Speakers	Master of Ceremony
8:40 a.m.	Greetings	HONOURABLE SHAMFA CUDJOE <i>Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs</i>
8:50 a.m.	Welcome Remarks	DEPUTY CHIEF SECRETARY AND SECRETARY OF FINANCE AND THE ECONOMY ASSEMBLYMAN JOEL JACK
9:05 a.m.	BREAK	
9:15 a.m.	Introduction of Keynote Speaker	Master of Ceremony
9:20 a.m.	Keynote	MR. ANDREW RAMROOP
10:00 a.m.	Question and Answer Session	
10:15 a.m.	Panel: Young Entrepreneurs <i>Ideate. Iterate</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MR. SHANNON WALTERS <i>WingFings Cuisine</i>• MR. ALEX NEDD <i>Waterholics</i>• MRS. ASHA MARS-LEWIS <i>Perfect Weddings and Events</i>
11:00 a.m.	Question and Answer Session	
11:15 a.m.	Financing your Entrepreneurial Dream	MS. TAMARA COWIE <i>Venture Capital Equity Fund Limited</i> REPRESENTATIVE <i>Business Development Unit, Division of Community Development, Enterprise Development and Labour</i>

Agenda

TIME	ITEM	FACILITATOR
11:40 a.m.	LUNCH	
12:30 p.m.	Panel: Agri-Business Innovators I <i>NextGen Fundamentals</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MR. JEVAUGHN ARNOLD• MR. RICARDO ALFRED• MR. PAVEL PARKS <i>AgriPlanner Suite</i>
1:15 p.m.	Panel: Technology and Innovation <i>4IR Emerging Technologies and the Future of Data</i>	MRS. LYNETTE AKONG <i>ICT/Business Coordinator, Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI)</i>
	<i>Innovative Visionaries/ Design Engineering</i>	MR. KIEYN PARKS <i>Virtual Reality Artificial Intelligence - Drone Applications</i>
	Leveraging Opportunities in the ICT Sector: The Tobago Innovation Centre	MRS. JONELLE STERLING ADAMS <i>Operations Manager Tobago Information Technology Ltd.</i>
2:15 p.m.	Question and Answer Session	
2:30 p.m.	Vote of Thanks	MS. TRICIA BECKLES <i>Manager Strategic Business Support and Development Unit</i>
2:35 p.m.	Musical Performance	JEDIDIAH





Welcome



It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Division of Finance and the Economy's annual Youth Empowerment Forum. The Division, and by extension the Assembly, has always endeavored to implement the necessary programmes and activities to ensure that the young people of Tobago are prepared for their future and are best positioned to assume the mantle of responsibility for our island. This Youth Forum is one such activity, and it remains an essential focal point of our Finance Week Programme. The Forum is once again scheduled to coincide with Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) to leverage the synergies between the two initiatives and to amplify the messaging underlined by their global themes: recognizing women, youth, and inclusion in entrepreneurship, and connecting ecosystems around the world. These four pillars have been and will continue to be exemplified as we fulfill our mandate as a Division, and as you will observe with the dynamic roster of speakers and exhibitors here with us today.

Each year we seek to catalyze our young persons to pursue creative and innovative paths not limited by the existing entrepreneurial ecosystem. To become creators and not just consumers of content, in a world in which traditional rules are constantly reviewed and rewritten to make space for a plethora of new and emerging voices, and where geography is

not the barrier to entry it once was. As our facilitators will share today, there is a great idea and there is a marketable product or service; there is passion and there is diligent execution, there is facilitation and there is collaboration. I urge you to pay attention to the differences, be inspired by their successes and spurred by their challenges. The presentations and stories will vary across sectors but there will always be a common thread of belief in the future that you can forge.

I reiterate my commitment to prescribe the necessary policy interventions needed to support these burgeoning ecosystems, to leverage the expertise of our partners and stakeholders, and to continue to provide opportunities for collective insight and shared experiences as this remains a strategic investment in our collective future. We at the Division believe that you learn best by doing and from doers, so I urge you to engage not only with the panelists but also with each other. After all, you might be surprised at what you might have in common, but more so what value you can add to each other in pursuit of an entrepreneurial solution needed right here in Tobago. It was Kevin Systrom of Instagram fame who once said:

"Every startup should address a real and demonstrated need in the world. If you build a solution to a problem lots of people have, it's so easy to sell your product to the world."

Thank you.

Joel D. A. Jack
*Deputy Chief Secretary and
Secretary for Finance & The Economy
Tobago House of Assembly*



Presenters

Keynote Speaker MR. ANDREW RAMROOP

It is often said of the privileged 'some are born with a silver spoon' but for Andrew Madan Ramroop OBE, CMTT it could be described as 'with a tailors thimble in his fingers'.

So how could a young man born on squatting land on the forest of the northern range of Trinidad forest mountains; attended primary school until aged 13, from very under privileged parentage manage to navigate his way to become arguably the world's finest Savile Row Bespoke tailors.

What is not arguable is that he is the most decorated and accomplished. Andrew has won more awards and accolades than any other since the origin of the word 'tailor' back in the 13th century; to name just a few, the Mayor of London Trailblazer Award, Excellence Award, Chaconia Gold award, British Black Business Person of the year [2017].

He is also member of the National Advisory Board at the prestigious Harvard University's Du Bois Institute [African American Faculty]. Currently, Advisor to the World Federation of Master Tailors, having been accepted by the prestigious Hillview College in Northern Trinidad, Andrew turned down the sought after college place in favour of pursuing a career in men's tailoring. His ethos is the pursuit of tailoring excellence, perfection to the highest standard attainable. Cutting and fitting suits in harmony with body shapes for style, elegance and comfort.

Although Andrew's expertise is now widely celebrated, his own journey to tailoring success is an unusual one. Coming alone to London from Trinidad aged 17 with a burning ambition to work amongst the finest tailors, he has exceeded his personal ambition to be named amongst the world's top 25 black designers.

As a graduate of the London College of Fashion, his skills became known by winning student competitions and completing the three year degree in just two years, gaining a Distinction.

After Fashion College, Andrew Ramroop started as understudy to Mr. Maurice Sedwell; fourteen years later he purchased the business. He is a true craftsman, the only practicing tailor on Savile Row to be awarded as an Officer of The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, for services to tailoring and training. He also holds a Professorship for Distinction in the Field of Tailoring from the University of the Arts London.

Andrew's business acumen proved itself during the early 90s when many other shops on Savile Row were closing due to the recession, Andrew expanded Maurice Sedwell Ltd., into larger premises at their current location, 19 Savile Row. He took the business from less than 5% export to 75% export (2016). Maurice Sedwell now tailored suits for customers in 60 countries.

Named Ambassador for the British government Business is Great Britain campaign in 2015/16 and Black British Business Person of 2017. Andrew is passionate about training the next generation of elite tailors. In January 2008, he inaugurated the Savile Row Academy, where he now passes on his immense skills, knowledge and experience to others who are eager to have a meaningful career in tailoring.



MR. SHANNON WALTERS *WingFings Cuisine*

From a tender age, "Wingfing", as he has affectionately been called by his uncle, has been intrigued by the goings-on in the kitchen on both sides of the family - particularly by his grandmothers, aunts and mother - and was ever present when a stove-top burner was lit. They nurtured his curiosity for years and often honoured him with the position of sous-chef.

Although he has enjoyed preparing a slew of local dishes for home, what piqued Shannon's interest was the novelty of the meals highlighted on the Food Network. So, as he began living on his own at the University of



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the West Indies' Milner Hall, he was then able to experiment with international flavours to his heart's content.

His prominent kitchen presence led to him being assigned as one of the cooks for the Hall's Hawaiian-themed event, I-Block Luau in 2014, and as Head Chef and Menu Planner for the event in 2015.

It was during this time in university, he found a recipe for a dish called "pull-apart bread", and recreated it with several amendments. It was such a hit among friends who tried it that they pleaded with him to begin selling them, a suggestion Shannon finally heeded to in 2017. His business is now registered by the name of Wingfing's Cuisine: a service whose culinary point of view is to introduce non-traditional flavour combinations to the local population.

Some people plan on being entrepreneurs. They save money, quit their jobs and throw themselves into their passion. Others, like Shannon Walters, had a latent entrepreneurial spirit, which surfaced when he proved himself to be ready.

MR. ALEX NEDD

Waterholics

Alex Nedd is the owner of Tobago Waterholics, an Umbrella Watersports Company that provides a wide range of water activities from jet ski rentals to chartered boat tours and various watersports activities.

Mr. Nedd was exposed to the tourism industry at thirteen (13) years old when he started working for his brother's dive shop and became a certified divemaster. He officially registered the Waterholics brand in 2007.

He is passionate about the industry and has been active in marketing his brand and the Tobago tourism product. While Waterholics started off by marketing jet ski rentals only, it has now diversified into other tourism activities such as boat tours, waterfall tours, and other tourism sites as well as many other watersports activities.

Mr. Nedd is the recipient of the 2012 Division of Tourism Youth in Tourism Award and a Trinidad and Tobago National Award - 20 Stars of Tomorrow. He completed his tour operator certification from the Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Institute in 2008.



MRS. ASHA MARS-LEWIS

Perfect Weddings and Events

Founder and visionary Asha Mars-Lewis brings purpose and passion to the business of servicing the very individual needs that are found in the wedding industry.

Asha began honing her skills as a planner of small events in Brooklyn, New York, through Day Break World Ministries. A passion for weddings was quickly developed so she pursued training, later becoming a Certified Wedding Specialist.

Upon returning to Tobago in 2008 Asha identified a gap in the market for a fully dedicated wedding and event planning service. By 2009 her dream became a reality and Perfect Weddings and Events was birthed. Three years later she was awarded "The Excellence in Service Award" at the Tobago Business Awards.

Asha is a wife, mother of two adorable boys, and enjoys praying, dining, reading and traveling.

MS. TAMARA R. COWIE

Venture Capital Equity Fund Limited

Tamara Cowie presently occupies the position of Manager-Operations at the Venture Capital Equity Fund Co. Ltd. An alumna of Bishop's High School, Tobago where she completed both the Ordinary and Advanced level examinations with distinction, Tamara is also a graduate of Howard University, USA, and the UWI Arthur Lok Jack Global School of Business where she successfully completed an MBA in 2015.



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As Manager-Operations at Venture Capital, her responsibilities include, but are not limited to determining the economic and financial feasibility of projects; finalization of equity investments; increasing deal flow, and building relationships with key external and internal stakeholders. Tamara is also a member of the Division of Finance and the Economy Occupational Safety and Health Committee.

A committed member of the VCEFL team, her strengths lie in her knowledge of the industry, and her resolve to contribute to the sustained successes of a company committed to providing innovative financing solutions to entrepreneurs through venture capital equity investment.

MR. JEAUGHN ARNOLD

Jeaughn Arnold was born to Yolande Daniel and Curtis Arthur, on January 15th 1990 at the Scarborough General Hospital in Tobago. As a child his greatest influences were his mother, aunt and grandparents. Mr. Arnold has always been very dedicated and hardworking when trying to achieve his goals. Upon completion of high school, he obtained his C.X.C. Certificate with five passes.

Following his childhood and teenage years, he landed his first job at Penny Savers as a package handler. Mr. Arnold now retains a job as a Male Laborer within the Division of Infrastructure, Quarries and the Environment, while operating Je'Nature Farm and Nature Park.

Given his tenacious nature, Mr. Arnold does not let obstacles get in the way of making things happen. He strongly dislikes procrastination, as he believes, it is a waste of thought, a way of self-doubt and a leading factor for set-backs. He hopes that eventually, his establishment, the Je'Nature Farm and Nature Park, will be regionally and internationally recognized and that the farm's production will be done on an even larger scale to be able to facilitate more visitors and to be the leading brand for organic farm-fresh produce.



MR. RICARDO ALFRED

Ricardo Alfred is a Marine Engineer with over fourteen (14) years of experience. During his career, he has traveled the world; Europe, Northern Africa, America, the Caribbean. Currently, He serves in various roles which include, Director at Titan Marine Engineering and Survey Company, 'Tobago's only premier Maritime Consultancy Company' specializing in ship building, ship surveys, consultancy on marine projects and ship maintenance. He is also a Maritime Surveyor and Engineering Examiner with the Maritime Service Division, Ministry of Works and Transport.

Additionally, Mr. Alfred is a Director of the Tobago Sea School whose primary focus is on marine training and education. He is the Deputy Chairman of the Board of Governors of Pigeon Point Heritage Park, as well as the Deputy Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Institute of Marine Affairs. Adding to his extensive repertoire Mr. Alfred is a registered farmer and the Director of Tobagrow, specializing in both livestock and crop farming.

MR. PAVEL PARKS

AgriPlanner Suite

Pavel Parks was born in Tobago which formed the basis for his love for nature, animals and preserving the environment. He obtained his pre and post graduate degrees from universities in Canada and Australia. Mr. Parks spent a number of years abroad, studying and living in Canada, Australia and Zimbabwe before settling down with his family in South Africa in 2005. He has recently returned to Tobago.

Mr. Parks has over ten (10) years experience in green and sustainable energy systems, while working as the CEO of Africa Green Energy Technologies (AGET), which included building biogas clusters in various rural parts of South Africa to support agriculture, as well as incorporating other technologies such as Concentrated Solar Power (CSP), Waste to Energy solutions (RDF/SDF), PV Solar, Fuel Cell technology, Artificial Intelligence in aqua/hydroponics and Pyrolysis in accordance with developing business cases and partnerships.





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He has solid knowledge of Corporate and International Finance and has a keen interest in business development as a Renewable Energy Consultant in various parts of the world. Mr. Parks has lectured in Finance and Business at various universities in South Africa and supervised Master students in renewable energy. He has recently commenced a PhD in Chemical Engineering.

MRS. LYNETTE AKONG

ICT/Business Coordinator, Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI)

Mrs. Lynette Akong holds a BSc in Computer Science from the University of Hertfordshire, UK and a MSc in Geographical Information Systems from the University of Leeds, UK. She also holds the Data Science: Data to Insights professional certification from the MIT Institute for Data, Systems, and Society (IDSS) and is a PMI Agile Certified Practitioner. She has been employed with the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the past 20 years in ICT, primarily in data management with the Legal, Education, Public Administration and Planning Ministries. During this time, she has represented our country as a presenter at various regional and international conferences and government knowledge transfer programmes. Mrs. Akong is currently the ICT Business Coordinator at the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute. At CARIRI she leads a data science / software engineering team pioneering innovative custom software development with integrated data analytics targeted at all industries and sectors across Trinidad and Tobago.



MR. KIEYN PARKS

Virtual Reality Artificial Intelligence - Drone Applications

Being in love with gadgets all of his life, Kieyn made technology a lifelong passion. He has been a Technology Consultant for the past twenty (20) years; His expertise are in computer hardware, software and telecommunications. As an ardent tinkerer, Mr. Parks continues to devote his time learning about the latest technologies including Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Autonomous Vehicles; He also spends time developing YouTube "how-to" tutorial videos on Algorithms, Mathematics, Business Applications and Games.

For more than a decade, Mr. Parks worked as a Cellular Network Consultant with one of the world's largest telecommunications companies, AT&T, where he was involved in the building out of their 3G and 4G LTE networks. Prior to working with AT&T, he worked for Adesta Communications to build out and manage a fiber-optic ring for the highway authority of New Jersey.

Mr. Parks holds a Certificate in Machine Learning from Stanford University, A.S in Electronics Engineering from DeVry University, and a B.S in Computer Science from Southern New Hampshire University. Currently, he is pursuing a Nano degree from Udacity on Self-Driving Vehicles.



MS. JONELLE STERLING ADAMS

Operations Manager - Tobago Information Technology Ltd.

Ms. Jonelle Sterling-Adams has been employed with the Tobago Information Technology Limited as the Operations Manager (Ag) since March of 2018. Her previous posting commenced in February 2016 where she was charged with the responsibility of increasing the IT Literacy capabilities across the island. Ms. Sterling-Adams has been instrumental in the establishment and operations of the Innovation Centre through championing the opening of the only approved PearsonVUE testing centre on the island, as well as creating partnerships that have led to the organization

becoming a CompTIA approved Learning partner and a member of the CISCO Networking Academy. She is the holder of a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science, a Diploma in Management (Project Management Major) and a Diploma in Information and Communication Technology. Ms. Sterling-Adams is both a business professional and an entrepreneur who has worked with ICT for both education and innovation in business operations and acknowledges its potential as a game changer for both individuals and businesses alike.

