



DIVISION OF FINANCE AND THE ECONOMY

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FORUM

AGENDA

13th NOVEMBER 2020



The New Agenda



AGENDA

8:30 a.m.	National Anthem Opening Prayer	EVANGELIST ROGER ALLEYNE
8:37 a.m.	Introduction	MR. HANS DES VIGNES <i>Master of Ceremony</i>
8:40 a.m.	Welcome Remarks	ASSEMBLYMAN JOEL JACK <i>Deputy Chief Secretary and Secretary for Finance and the Economy</i>
8:45 a.m.	Address	THE HON. ANCIL DENNIS <i>Chief Secretary</i>
8:50 a.m.	FEATURE FOCUS Spotlight on Business Development	
9:00 a.m.	Introduction/Overview	MR. HANS DES VIGNES <i>Master of Ceremony</i>
9:05 a.m.	Keynote Address Accelerating the Digital Agenda	MR. LUIS GUILLOT <i>Chief Technology Officer Government Solutions Huawei Technologies Latin America</i>
9:30 a.m.	Question and Answer	MR. HANS DES VIGNES <i>Moderator</i>
9:45 a.m.	Digital Infrastructure and Access	MR. KYLE MALONEY <i>Co-Founder – Tech Beach</i>
10:00 a.m.	Digital Economy and Ecommerce	MR. KERON ROSE <i>Founder – Digipreneur Academy</i>



AGENDA

10:15 a.m.	PANEL DISCUSSION: <i>Investing in the Innovation Ecosystem</i>	MR. HANS DES VIGNES <i>Moderator</i>
10:45 a.m.	FEATURE FOCUS Spotlight on Agriculture	
11:00 a.m.	Introduction/Overview	MR. HANS DES VIGNES <i>Master of Ceremony</i>
11:05 a.m.	Agri-preneurship Home Grown Opportunities for Youth	MR. ALPHA SENNON <i>Founder - WHY-Farm</i>
11:20 a.m.	Cocoa Revolution <i>Opportunities for Cocoa-preneurship</i>	MS. GABRIELLA GONZALES <i>Manager - Marketing, Business Development and Communication at the Cocoa Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (CDCTTL)</i>
11:35 p.m.	PANEL DISCUSSION: <i>Agri-Business Innovators</i>	MR. HANS DES VIGNES <i>Moderator</i>
12:00 p.m.	Entertainment	JOEL “POSITIVE” MURRAY
12:30 pm	Vote of Thanks	MS. TRICIA BECKLES <i>Manager - Strategic Business Support and Development Unit Division of Finance and the Economy</i>
12:35 p.m.	The Way Forward	ASSEMBLYMAN JOEL JACK <i>Deputy Chief Secretary and Secretary for Finance and the Economy</i>





I am indeed extremely delighted to welcome you to our Annual Youth Empowerment Forum, which forms an essential part of the Division of Finance and the Economy's Finance Month celebrations. The Division, over the years, has given strategic importance to and placed our young people at the forefront of our development thrust, with the Youth Empowerment Forum serving as one of our flagship events during our celebrations. For me, it's always a pleasure to be in company of fellow young people, to sit and discuss issues which are pertinent to your development. This morning's Forum comes at a time when as a world we are navigating the challenges arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, our theme for this year's Finance Month celebrations is ***"Recalibrating Our Priorities Toward a More Resilient Future"***. We recognize that the future cannot be discussed without the direct engagement and input of those whose future we are entrusted with as a duty of care.

Over the last three years, this Administration was proud to have:

Offered a number of youth professional training programmes for young adults, such as the World of Work Programme and the Youth

Energized for Success Summer Internship Programme, to enhance employability of approximately 500 young persons on the island;

Introduced a Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) after-school programme to provide students in Tobago with greater opportunities to access new and emerging technologies such as Electronics, Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Reality, Advanced Coding, Advanced Robotic and Multipurpose Drones. Over 230 students benefited from the STEM training;

Hosted the You-Biz Summer Camp and Financial Literacy Tours;

Conducted Financial Literacy Youth Expositions to provide exposure and improve financial literacy and entrepreneurial skills; and,

Constructed the Tobago Innovation Centre to provide training and certification in IT and ICT related disciplines.

In addition, we have assisted a significant number of young persons with an interest in entrepreneurship by providing several millions in loans and grants under the Enterprise Assistance Fund (EAF) and Enterprise Assistance Grant Programmes (EAGP). The SME sector in Tobago has been well supported over the years through collaborations of the Business Development Unit (BDU), the Strategic Business Support and Development Unit (SBSDU), the Venture Capital Equity Fund Limited (VCEFL) and the Eco-Industrial Company of Tobago (EIDCOT) Limited. As a result, we have increased the availability of a number of products and services of Tobago origin, both on a national and an international level.



As young adults you will agree that we live in an environment of constant change and disruption. The onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly altered social norms, and placed greater demands on policy makers and the society as a whole, to devise creative and sustainable solutions. These solutions will not only ensure that our health and safety is not compromised, but also that the island's economic activity continues unabated. Therefore, in keeping with our theme and central to this approach, is a renewed commitment to leverage ICT as an engine for not only digital transformation, but as an enabler of socio-economic transformation.

One of our key strategies for this digital evolution has been the Intelligent Island Initiative which I have outlined in my recent Budget Statement. Additionally, we have taken steps to expand the service offerings at the Tobago Information Technology Limited (TITL) and to build out our knowledge networks by hosting our own innovation conferences and camps, and develop further partnerships within the local and regional technology community. Another key pillar of this strategy is the establishment of a Tier III Data Centre at the COVE Eco-Industrial Business Park; and we certainly look forward to the business opportunities to be created out of the Data Centre.

As we continue our dialogue pivoting towards a 'The New Agenda', this year's Forum will focus on accelerating the island's digital agenda and

facilitating the necessary investment in an innovation ecosystem. We will also focus specifically on the issue of food security by looking at the agricultural sector and entrepreneurial initiatives and opportunities within this sector in order to improve food security. I know that you can look forward to exciting presentations and equally engaging discussions with today's caliber of progressive and forward thinking panelists.

Arising out of Tuesday's discussions at the Tobago Economic and Business Outlook Conference, we are in the process of establishing a Business Advisory Council to continue the engagement and to drive the recommendations made by those panelists. I have no doubt that today will be as fruitful and engaging. Under the current circumstances, we are unable to come together in our large numbers as we normally do, however we are joined by many other young persons via social media, and the World Wide Web and I am certainly looking forward to their contributions.

On behalf of the Division of Finance and the Economy, I take great pleasure in welcoming you to this year's Youth and Empowerment Forum.

Thank you.

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



Keynote Speaker
MR. LUIS GUILLOT

*Chief Technology Officer
Government Solutions
Huawei Technologies Latin America*

Luis Guillot is Chief Technology Officer of Government Solutions for Huawei Latin America. Among his responsibilities is research, market development and definition of strategies in the region in solutions of Smart Cities, Safe Cities, e-health, e-education and e-Gov. Mr. Guillot has more than 20 years of experience in the Design, Implementation and Management of ICT solutions and services for government agencies. Prior to joining Huawei, he served as Director of Infrastructure and Public Sector at GoNet de México, Director General of ICT Governance for Mexico City, and Deputy Director for Technology Development at INFO-TEC, Mexico.

Mr. Guillot studied Administrative and Computing Systems at the Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (Mexico). He also studied Strategic Management of Information Technology and Strategic Business Administration from the University of California Berkeley (United States).



MR. KYLE MALONEY
Co-Founder – Tech Beach

Kyle Maloney is a Technology Entrepreneur. In the last decade, he Co-Founded five (5) Technology Driven Companies in the industries of Building Sustainability, Healthy Food, Local Business Search, Technology Business Convening and Digital Marketing. Mr. Maloney's companies have been written about in global publications like Forbes, Essence and Inc. Magazine and The Huffington Post. He is also a NextGen Board Member of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) - Trinidad, a public speaker and mentor specialising in the area of Technology Start-ups and Digital Marketing.

Social Handles

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/kpmaaloney/>
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/kylepmaaloney_/
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/KylePMaloney>



MR. KERON ROSE
Founder – Digipreneur Academy

Keron Rose is a Digital Entrepreneur focused on educating the Caribbean region to participate in the global economy through E-Commerce. He is the host and producer of the Caribbean's 1st ever show that focuses on an online business called the Digital Age, which features the companies who are building solutions in the digital space and speaks to Caribbean experts who are thriving online in their niches. Mr. Rose has most recently started a new initiative called the Digipreneur Academy, which will teach Caribbean Entrepreneurs a variety of topics in order for them to get the skills and knowledge needed to build their businesses online.



MR. ALPHA SENNON
Founder – WHY-Farm

Alpha Sennon grew up in Siparia, Trinidad on a crop and livestock farm, but disliked it. During this period, his experiences never connected him to understanding the need for or the “why” of farming. As he got older, when choosing career paths, he attempted to escape Agriculture but, was eventually led right back to where he began; in the soil. His pain became his passion; his passion became his purpose, which is to inspire children to feed the world by the year 2050.

Mr. Sennon founded WHYFARM (We Help You-th Farm), a globally recognised and award-winning nonprofit organisation, that pioneers Agricultural Educational Entertainment (Agri-edutainment), with a mission to promote the importance of sustainable agriculture among youth and children, build their capacity in Agricultural Entrepreneurship, and empower them to contribute to achieving global food and nutrition security.

Mr. Sennon is globally known as a farmerpreneur, motivational speaker and agri-youth advocate who is also a graduate of the University of the West Indies. He is also an alumnus of the 2016 Young Leaders of Americas Initiative lead by his Excellency



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Mr. Barack Obama. He was awarded the 2018-Andrew-e-Rice-Award for his work in Leadership and Innovation as a Young Professional in International Development by the Society for International Development, Washington Chapter. Most recently, he was presented with the winning title of 'Social Entrepreneur' of the year by CEMEX-TEC Mexico and Ashoka Organisation. Mr. Sennon was also named the 40 under 40 influencer of the year by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

the CEO and Board Committees, to vet proposals and operationalise strategic objectives. Ms. Gonzales' early career in brand management and radio advertising sales, as well as the learnings from her current International Master in Strategic Marketing and Masters programme, in addition to her undergraduate degree in Public Relations and Journalism, helped prepare her for this position.

She was previously a Consumer Marketing Manager for Gerber Baby Food at Nestle Trinidad, and has 10 years expertise working for food and beverage manufacturers, managing distributors and volume sales in the Caribbean region.

Ms. Gonzales is guided by the philosophy that: "Developing strong relationships and having a service mindset are the foundations of everything I do, both professionally and personally." She's an extrovert who welcomes challenges, and a strong communicator, who enjoys interaction with colleagues and stakeholders along the cocoa value chain, to understand how best to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.



MS. GABRIELLA GONZALES

Manager - Marketing, Business Development and Communication at the Cocoa Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (CDCTTL)

Ms. Gabriella Gonzales has worked in this role since November 2017. Her current position in this young, state-owned company requires taking a holistic view of the cocoa industry and its stakeholders, creating strategic marketing, communication and business development plans, aligned to the company's mandate, and effectively building corporate and industry brand elements from scratch.

Her portfolio also involves working closely with



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MR. JOEL MURRAY

Musician, Entrepreneur

Joel "Positive" Murray is a singer, songwriter, producer, motivational speaker and a young entrepreneur with one of the most unique voices in Caribbean Gospel.

Hailing from the beautiful island of Tobago in the small village of John Dial, his catalog of albums include hit songs like 'Never Let Go', 'Two Man Army' and 'Blessing After Blessing'. He has carved out a distinctive territory in the music industry both regionally and internationally over the years, reaching Top 10 spots on both Billboard & iTunes Reggae Albums' Charts.

Among his many accolades, he was the most-nominated artist at the Caribbean Gospel Music Marlin Awards twice in a row, winning eight awards in both 2014 and 2017. His consistency and passion has been his driving force in his writing and production, forming super collaborations with the likes of Jonathan McReynolds, V. Rose, and DJ Nicholas. He has featured on major events across the Caribbean, UK, North and Central America.

Most known by his soubriquet, "Positive", he describes music as a means of sharing uplifting spiritual messages that can influence change for the better. Despite the accolades, impacting the listener is what is important to him. While his mission is to share the love of Jesus Christ, a

listener can appreciate the style and depth of Positive's music. Strictly roots and culture, coupled with his authentic flavour, he is Positive.



HANS DES VIGNES

Master of Ceremony

Hans Des Vignes is one of Trinidad and Tobago's most respected media personalities, having hosted broadcasts for major television stations locally, regionally, and internationally. After a youthful start in media at age sixteen (16), he has produced youth-oriented programs like Synergy TV Super Model, De Scene, and Synergy Soca Star. He has also hosted prominent events like the Tobago Jazz Festival, Miss Universe Trinidad and Tobago, and Digicel Rising Stars. Mr. Des Vignes also created TV6's "Promenade Countdown" and "What's Good."

A past student of Diego Martin Central Secondary with a love for Finance and Business Development, Mr. Des Vignes has completed all three levels of ACCA. He focuses on positively shaping society through community initiatives as well as youth-focused initiatives like the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs' "40 Under 40" Program and was recently appointed to the Community Recovery Committee of Trinidad and Tobago created by Prime Minister Dr. Keith C. Rowley, as part of the Roadmap to Recovery initiative.

