



The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

MIC INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

GRADUATION CEREMONY 2022

(VIRTUAL EVENT)

Message By

The Honourable Lisa Morris-Julian

Minister in the Ministry of Education

20th April, 2022

SALUTATIONS:

- Professor Clement Imbert - Chairman, MIC Institute of Technology (MIC-IT)
- Mr. Anil Ramnarine - CEO, MIC-IT
- Dr. Brian James - General Manager, Training, MIC-IT
- Ms. Carol Mitchell - Manager, Academy for Vocational Education and Training (AVET), MIC-IT
- Mr. Charles Elie - Manager, Engineering and Designs, MIC-IT
- Mr. Jason Collins - Divisional Manager, Construction and Road Building and Rentals, FT Farfan & Sons Limited.
- Management and staff of MIC-IT
- Speakers and Stakeholders
- Media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening ladies and gentlemen,

Congratulations to the graduating class of the MIC Institute of Technology 2022! Today we celebrate, albeit virtually, almost 2,500 trainees of the following courses of study:

- Industrial Craft Programme (ICP),
- Engineer In Training (EIT) Programme
- Helping Youth Prepare for Employment (HYPE),
- Multi-Sector Skills Training (MuST) Programme,
- National Skills Development Programme (NSDP) and the
- Technical Vocational Instructor Teacher Training (TVITT) Diploma Programme.

Thank you for the opportunity to bring greetings on behalf of Dr. the honourable Nyan Gadsby Dolly and the Ministry of Education. Dr Dolly sends her deepest regret for he unavoidable absents. The Ministry has always been keen on celebrating with our students when they achieve various milestones in their academic journey. This particular graduation holds special significance as it is the first time since 2014, that the MIC Institute of Technology is hosting such an event of this magnitude to recognise the graduates of so many programmes.

Graduations have always been one of the occasions that prompts an individual to peer into the world of possibilities that lie ahead and ask, what's next? Now that you have become qualified in a chosen field, do you pursue further study? Conduct research? Seek employment? Become an entrepreneur? And I am sure this graduating class is no exception. According to American philosopher and educator John Dewey, *"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself."*

What happens in a classroom is closely connected to and influenced by all that is happening just outside its walls. The delivery of education at every level in this small twin-island nation, the Caribbean region and the entire world has been disrupted by the events of the last two years. However, your very presence here today is testament to your resilience and determination to succeed.

At the Ministry of Education, we are mindful that education is the link between a country's present and its ability to enjoy a sustainable future. The pandemic has forced us all to evaluate and make adjustments. Especially the ways, in which we operate, noting that the education sector was no exception. In fact, education has been one of the hardest hit sectors globally, with over one billion learners being affected. Many countries are still in the process of strategizing how to reach learners and in many instances; the lost time cannot be regained.

Having navigated online and other blended modalities of learning, you are now in a unique position to contribute to the discussions on what learning should look like going forward. I want to encourage you to collaborate with and empower stakeholders to make any necessary adjustments, which can assist other students in achieving the overall goal of academic success. As a graduate, your question to yourself should be, *“How can I best use my experiences and knowledge to benefit others? How can I contribute to moulding the future of my country?”*

The people of Trinidad and Tobago are no strangers to creativity and innovation. So if we put in the work, we may very well find ourselves being the mecca for education within the region and the system after which all others are patterned. The MoE’s goal is to ensure that every citizen has access to a quality education that adequately prepares them for life. We are committed to partner with all stakeholders working towards the same goal.

The Ministry recently completed Phase 2 of national consultations with various stakeholders on the Education Policy 2022-2027. With the ultimate vision, of making quality education, accessible to all learners, from Early Childhood Care Education to tertiary education. Also clearly recognizing, TVET Rationalization as a very key pillar of this policy. This Government and Ministry have left the doors of opportunity open, to all individuals and groups that wish to partner with us. As we execute the effective governance and administration of the education system.

Today I am extremely proud of you, and count it a privilege to share in your graduation ceremony 2022. I am also filled with excitement, when I think about the potential for greatness, as each of you make your contributions to your jobs, your communities and to the national landscape. I know that there seems to be a lot being asked of you, but when we shift our focus from what is required to what can be achieved, nothing is impossible.

I cannot conclude this address without making special mention of Richard Ramlochan, an ICP trainee from the Penal Technology Centre who successfully completed the Electrical Installation Craft programme in 2020 and was awarded the President's Gold Medal for his outstanding performance. I offer my sincere congratulations, may you continue to excel in all your future endeavours. Congratulations to the leadership and staff of MIC-IT and may you also continue to excel by producing top level graduates in all of the programmes of study that you offer.

In John F. Kennedy's inaugural address on January 20, 1961 he urged the American people to, "ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country." Graduates, as you leave the hallowed halls of formal education, I challenge you to change the landscape of education for those yet to walk in your footsteps. I thank you for having me and again, I congratulate all of you on this achievement. May God bless you all.