

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LANDS & FISHERIES

**LAUNCH OF
FAMILY NIGHTS UNDER THE LIGHTS**

AN ADDRESS

**THE HONOURABLE SHAMFA CUDJOE
MINISTER OF TOURISM
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

Date: Sunday November 19, 2017

Venue: Botanical Gardens, St. Ann's

Time: 5.00pm

- Senator The Honourable Clarence Rambharat, the Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries
 - Representatives of the Corporate Sponsors for this event
 - Special Invited Guests
 - Members of the Media
 - All the many families I see gathered here this afternoon
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Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure to be here for the launch of the “**FAMILY NIGHTS UNDER THE LIGHTS**” in the ever beautiful Royal Botanical Gardens as we commemorate and celebrate Christmas 2017.

Christmas is a time of peace, joy, happiness, hope, caring, sharing, and, most of all, love ... Love for God, and love for each other. So this initiative places focus on our responsibility to express our love for our God and humanity through fellowship with one another.

Initiatives like these play a pivotal role in developing communities, promoting unity, engendering hope, and expressing human compassion.

No better place to showcase the beauty and steadfastness of God’s love than in this charming Royal Botanic garden. No better place to bring our people together, than in this central point of our capital city.

I wish to congratulate the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries for hosting another year of these celebrations and expanding the festivities to Mayaro, San Fernando, and I am still hoping that we could partner with the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries to host a special segment in Tobago.

The Ministry of Tourism is pleased to join the Ministry of Agriculture in this unique celebration of Christmas season. And I say unique, because we can all appreciate that nobody else, no where else in the entire world could celebrate Christmas like we do.

A “Trini” Christmas is an experience indeed, and something that ought to be celebrated.

From cleaning

To fruits soaking

Ginger beer buried in the ground

Cleaning sorrel

Black cake baking

Bamboo bussing

Parang singing

Pastelle making

And ham in the oven baking....nobody, I say nobody does it like we do

So we are happy to join as we celebrate our people, and our culture and we showcase all we have to offer to brothers and sisters at home and our friends and relatives visiting us from a far.

I wish this initiative all success and a happy and holy Christmas,
everyone

November 19, 2017