

MINISTRY OF TOURISM

**WORLD ODYSSEY CRUISE SHIP
PANYARD EXPERIENCE**

FEATURE ADDRESS

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

Date: Thursday November 26, 2015

Venue: PCS Nitrogen Silver Stars Panyard

Time: 8.00pm

- Mrs. Samdai Rampersad, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism
 - Directors of the Board of the Tourism Development Company Limited (TDC)
 - Mr. Keith Chin, Chief Executive Officer of the TDC
 - The beautiful young people from the World Odyssey Cruise Vessel
 - Members of the Media
 - Ladies and gentlemen
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Good Evening.

Welcome to the Mecca of Carnival ... the Home of the Steelpan, Calypso and Limbo! You are in the Last Paradise on Earth! Terrific Trinidad, Tranquil Tobago!

How many superlatives can I use to describe what you will experience over the next two (2) days.

On behalf of the Government and people of the Trinidad and Tobago, it is my great pleasure to welcome the World Odyssey on its inaugural visit to the Port of Port of Spain. A special “shout out” to the six hundred (600) young people from every corner of the global who have signed up for the Semester at Sea program; travelling the world for hands-on field experiences in various academic disciplines.

This is just a fantastic way to learn in today's global environment; wishing I had had that opportunity in my teen years.

Trinidad and Tobago is a country steeped in history, heritage, festivals and traditions. We offer a diverse and vibrant culture second to none. We have an enormous variety of exotic flora and fauna, especially bird and animal life; all in an unspoiled environment. You can immerse yourself in our myriad colourful festivals and events which are the envy of the world.

Our most popular national festival is Carnival and this is a celebration developed and driven by the creativity, music, drama and spirit of Trinidadians and Tobagonians. It is a time when we celebrate life and celebrate each other. As some of you will have learnt from your river lime at Caura River earlier on today, "Trinis" have a degree in "liming" and having fun.

Our steelpan, the last acoustic musical instrument to be invented in the last millennium, is perhaps our greatest national treasure and you will be amazed by the sweetest sounds that you will ever hear - the sound of pan.

Like most governments worldwide, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has recognised the importance of tourism to the national economy, especially for its contribution to the public coffers and creation of new and sustainable employment and investment opportunities.

But this evening is about tasting a slice of the culture of Trinidad and Tobago. To all of you, thank you for being here, welcome, and enjoy the entertainment and the rest of the evening!

November 25, 2015