

2016



VOTE OF THANKS

**Delivered by Ms. Sandy Sawh
Industry Standards Specialist
Tourism Development Company Limited
Trinidad and Tobago**

**Launch of the Blue Flag Children's Activity Book
*Saving our Oceans with Samanta the Manta***

**Wednesday 4 May, 2016
National Library and Information System
Authority (NALIS), Port of Spain – Audio Visual
Room**

- **Mrs. Cecelia Greaves-Smith, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism**
- **Mrs. Samdai Rampersad, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism**
- **Members of the Board of the Tourism Development Company**
- **Mr. Keith Chin, Chief Executive Officer Tourism Development Company and Management of the Tourism Development Company**
- **Dr. Keith Gibson, Director, Asclepius Green, Local Coordinator for the Blue Flag Programme**
- **Representatives of the Blue Flag National Jury**
- **Students and teachers**
- **Specially Invited guests**
- **Members of the media**

Good morning.

As we come to the end of this morning's launch I have the honour of delivering a vote of thanks on behalf of all who were instrumental in the development of Blue Flag Children's Activity Book and the continued success of the Blue Flag Programme in Trinidad and Tobago.

Saving our Oceans with Samanta the Manta is only the beginning. As the Ministry of Tourism and the TDC continue to work toward the achievement of Blue Flag status for other beach facilities on the island, we also remain committed to raising awareness of the importance of environmental conservation and the protection of our various sites, attractions and wildlife.

A fundamental component of the Blue Flag programme is connecting the public with their surroundings and encouraging a deeper interest in learning about the environment. There is a need for a greater appreciation of the natural beauty and appeal of Trinidad and Tobago and the responsibility belongs to each and every one of us to ensure that this beauty is not lost.

At this juncture I would like to acknowledge all of the persons and organisations that were influential in the successful coordination of this morning's event. To the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism, and other representatives of the Ministry of Tourism, thank for your attendance this morning and for your continued support of the Blue Flag Programme. The commitment of the Ministry of Tourism to the development of a sustainable tourism industry will undoubtedly lead to the positive transformation of tourism in Trinidad and Tobago.

I would like to also thank the Chairman and the members of the Board of Directors of the TDC for your unwavering dedication to the advancement of the sector and the positioning of Trinidad and Tobago as a destination of choice. In the five months that you have been at the helm of the TDC, your passion for the achievement of a vibrant tourism industry has not gone unrecognised.



To the representatives of Asclepius Green, the national coordinator of Blue Flag Trinidad and Tobago and the representatives of the Blue Flag National Jury, thank you for your continued guidance and support in maintaining the Blue Flag designation at Las Cuevas and as we work towards the achievement of the Blue Flag certification at other facilities in Trinidad and Tobago.

Mention must also be made of Mr. Jermold Compton, the graphic designer, who worked tirelessly on the design and creation of the activity book. Your patience and flexibility during the creative process is appreciated and I believe that all of your hard work has resulted in a truly eye catching, imaginative and educational product.

I would also like to acknowledge the students and teachers of Nelson Street Boys' and Nelson Street Girls' schools who have joined us this morning. This activity book was created for you the students and we hope that the activities are both educational and enjoyable.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you for taking time out of your busy schedule to join us at the launch of our Blue Flag Children's Activity Book- *Saving our Oceans with Samanta the Manta*, and as you return to your offices, homes and schools I urge you to always keep the concept of environmental conservation at the forefront of your minds.

Thank you.

