



Trinidad and Tobago
31st August, 1962–2012

Years of Independence
50

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Trinidad and Tobago Independence Day:

Trinidad and Tobago gained its independence from Great Britain on August 31st, 1962. At midnight on 30th August, 1962, the Union Jack (British flag) was lowered and the Trinidad and Tobago flag was raised for the first time. Bells tolled and sirens rang out to herald the birth of the newly independent nation.

This first Independence Day was marked by more than a week of festivities and events across the country from August 28 to September 05, 1962. Several international dignitaries were present for this auspicious occasion including the Queen’s representative, Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal who read the message sent by Queen Elizabeth II, relinquishing her rule.

Today, Independence Day is celebrated with military-style parades held at the Queens Park Savannah, Port of Spain and in Scarborough, Tobago. In Trinidad, the parade is inspected by the Head of State who, from 1962–1976, was the Governor General (i.e. the Queen’s representative in Trinidad and Tobago).

When Trinidad and Tobago achieved its status as a Republic in 1976, the President then assumed this role. The Chief Secretary, who is the leader of the Tobago House of Assembly, heads the Tobago parade. After the official activities at the parade grounds, the contingents march through the streets to the accompaniment of live music played by the bands of the various forces (e.g. Police, Fire and Prison bands).

The evening is usually marked by the presentation of National Awards in a ceremony held at the President’s House. These awards, which were first presented in 1969, honour the outstanding achievements of citizens of Trinidad and Tobago in various fields.

Finally, this day of celebration comes to a close with fireworks displays at the Queens Park Savannah, Port of Spain and the Port Authority Compound, Scarborough Tobago.

Independence Day Address

Independence Day Address, 1962 Dr. Eric Williams delivered the following speech to the nation over the radio on August 31, 1962, the first day of Trinidad and Tobago's independence from Great Britain.

Fellow Citizens, It is a great honour to me to address this morning the citizens of the Independent Nation of Trinidad and Tobago as their first Prime Minister. Your National Flag has been hoisted to the strains of your National Anthem, against the background of your National Coat of Arms, and amidst the beauty of your National Flower. Your Parliament has been inaugurated by Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, the representative of Her Majesty the Queen. You have your own Governor General and your own Chief Justice, both appointed on the advice of your own Prime Minister. You have your own National Guard, however small.

You are now a member of the Commonwealth Family in your own right, equal in status to any other of its members. You hope soon to be a member of the World Family of Nations, playing your part, however insignificant, in world affairs. You are on your own in a big world, in which you are one of many nations, some small, some medium size, some large. You are nobody's boss and nobody is your boss.

What use will you make of your independence? What will you transmit to your children five years from today? Other countries ceased to exist in that period. Some, in much less time, have become totally disorganised, a prey to anarchy and civil war. The first responsibility that devolves upon you is the protection and promotion of your democracy. Democracy means more, much more, than the right to vote and one vote for every man and every woman of the prescribed age. Democracy means recognition of the rights of others.

Democracy means equality of opportunity for all in education, in the public service, and in private employment—I repeat, and in private employment. Democracy means the protection of the weak against the strong. Democracy means the obligation of the minority to recognise the right of the majority. Democracy means responsibility of the Government to its citizens, the protection of the citizens from the exercise

of arbitrary power and the violation of human freedoms and individual rights. Democracy means freedom of worship for all and the subordination of the right of any race to the overriding right of the human race. Democracy means freedom of expression and assemble of organization.

All that is Democracy. All that is our Democracy, to which I call upon all citizens to dedicate themselves on this our Independence Day. This is what I meant when I gave the Nation its slogan for all time: Discipline, Production, Tolerance. Indiscipline, whether individual or sectional, is a threat to democracy. Slacking on the job jeopardizes the national income, inflates costs, and merely sets a bad example. The medieval churchmen had a saying that to work is to pray. It is also to strengthen our democracy by improving our economic foundations.

That democracy is but a hollow mockery and a gigantic fraud which is based on a ruling group's domination [of] slaves or helots or fellaheen or second class citizens or showing intolerance to others because of considerations of race, colour, creed, national origin, previous conditions of servitude or other irrationality.

Our National Flag belongs to all our citizens. Our National Coat of Arms, with our National Birds inscribed therein, is the sacred thrust of our citizens. So it is today, please, I urge you, let it always be so. Let us always be able to say, with the Psalmist, behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.

United at home in the common effort to build a democratic Nation and ostracize outmoded privileges, let us present to the outside world the united front of a Nation thinking for itself, knowing its own mind and speaking its own point of view. Let us take our stand in the international family on the basic principles of international rectitude. When our time comes to vote, let it always be a vote for freedom and against slavery, for self-determination and against external control, for integration and against division.

Democracy at home and abroad, the symbol of it is our Parliament. Remember fellow citizens, we now have a Parliament, we no longer have the colonial assemblies which did not have the full rights of a Parliament of a sovereign country. The very name "Parliament" testifies to our new

Independent status. By the same token, however, we at once become the object of comparison with other Parliamentary countries, inside and outside the Commonwealth.

This is a consideration which involves not only the Members of Parliament but also the individual citizen. The Members of Parliament have the traditional Parliamentary privileges guaranteed in the Constitution. The Speaker, the symbol of the power of Parliament, has his status guaranteed in the Order of Precedence. We shall soon have a Privileges Bill protecting and prescribing the powers of Parliament itself. Measures are being taken to establish the responsibility of Parliament in the field of external relations.

The Constitution recognises the position of the Leader of the Opposition and the normal parliamentary convention of consultation between Government and Opposition are being steadily developed and expanded. The Constitution itself, Independence itself, represent the agreement of the two political parties on the fundamental question of national unity. The ordinary citizen must recognise the role of the Parliament in our democracy and must learn to differentiate between a Member of Parliament, whom he may like or dislike, and the respect that must be accorded to that same Member of Parliament ex-officio. I call on all citizens from now on to accord the highest respect our Parliamentary system and institutions and to our Parliament itself.

Democracy, finally, rests on a higher power than Parliament. It rests on an informed and cultivated and alert public opinion. The Members of Parliament are only representatives of the citizens. They cannot represent apathy and indifference. They can play the part allotted to them only if they represent intelligence and public spiritness. Nothing has so demonstrated in the past six years the capacity of the People of Trinidad and Tobago than their remarkable interest in the public affairs. The development and expansion of that interest is the joint responsibility of the Government, the Parliament, the political parties and relevant civic organisations.

Those, fellow citizens, are the thoughts which, on my first day as Prime Minister, I wish to express to you on Independence Day. Your success in organising the Independence which you achieved will exercise a

powerful influence on your neighbours with all of whom we are likely to have close associations in the next few years, the smallest and nearest, as part of our Independent Unitary State, the larger and more distant as part of the wider and integrated Caribbean community. Problems of difficulties there will be. These are always a challenge to a superior intelligence and to strength of character.

Whatever the challenge that faces you, from whatever quarter, place always first that national interest and the national cause. The strength of the Nation depends on the strength of its citizens. Our National Anthem invokes God's blessings on our Nation, in response to those thousands of citizens of all faiths who demanded God's protection in our Constitution. Let us then as a Nation so conduct ourselves as to be able always to say in those noblest and most inspiring words of St. Paul, "By the Grace of God we as people are what we are, and His Grace in us hath not been void."

Our Independence Icons



Eric Eustace Williams (25/09/11-29/03/81)

Widely regarded as the “Father of the Nation”, Dr. Williams was a historian and politician of significant stature.

Of humble beginnings, he was educated at the Queen’s Royal College in Port of Spain from where he attained an island scholarship in 1932. This enabled him to attend St Catherine’s College in Oxford, from which he received his BA in history in 1935, and later, his doctorate.

His scholarly career in the United Kingdom lasted until 1938, then he moved to the Howard University in the United States. It was there that he completed his book, *Capitalism and Slavery*, which was published in 1944.

He was appointed to the Anglo-American Caribbean Commission later in 1944 and returned to Trinidad in 1948. He served in this capacity until 1955, when disagreements with the Commission resulted in the non-renewal of his contract. He then launched into his political career and during a series of public lectures in Woodford Square, he famously rechristened the park “The University of Woodford Square”.

In 1956, he founded the People’s National Movement, the party that would take Trinidad and Tobago into independence and dominate its politics for some thirty years after. The first document produced by the PNM was its constitution, then its People’s Charter. The party, led by this charismatic and intellectual leader was able to win 13 of the 24 elected seats in the Legislative Council. Williams was able to convince the Secretary of State for the colonies to allow him to name five appointed members to the Council, giving him a clear majority and allowing him to later be elected Chief Minister.

In 1958, the West Indies Federation was created by the British, and for the next four years, ten island nations struggled to make this into a unified Government. The differing views on representation in the Federation between Trinidad and Jamaica led to Jamaica’s withdrawal from the body in 1961. Trinidad and Tobago followed suit soon after.

In 1958, too, Federal elections were held in Trinidad and Tobago, but the victory for the PNM was not an easy one, as they faced severe opposition from the Democratic Labour Party, a coalition of several smaller political groups.

The British were at this time pursuing a policy of granting increasing self-government to the West Indian islands, and introduced a cabinet system of government in 1959, under which the Governor no longer presided over the Executive Council. Instead, there was now a Premier presiding over a Cabinet, and he had the authority to appoint and dismiss ministers.

The PNM was determined that this should be the party leading Trinidad and Tobago into independence, and Williams pledged that the flag of Trinidad and Tobago would fly over Chaguaramas, still occupied by the United States following the war. In 1960, the British re-opened negotiations with the United States over Chaguaramas, and Trinidad and Tobago was invited as an independent participant in the talks.

The December 1960 settlement on this issue gave the Williams-led PNM the impetus it needed to fight the 1961 elections, which it won in a 57% majority (20 of 30 seats) against the DLP, led by Dr Rudranath Capildeo. Thus was set the stage for independence. The two-thirds majority enjoyed by the PNM allowed the party to draft the Independence Constitution without input from the opposition. The DLP blocked the independence effort until Williams was able to strike a deal with Capildeo which strengthened the rights of the minority party and allowed for the appointment of a greater number of opposition senators. Independence was finally achieved on August 31, 1962.

Sir Ellis Emmanuel Innocent Clarke



Sir Ellis Emmanuel Innocent Clarke, an only child, was born on December 28 1917 into a middle class family from Belmont. He received his high school education at St Mary's College, where he won an island scholarship in mathematics.

He pursued his tertiary education at London University where he obtained his LLB and was called to the Bar at Gray's Inn, London in 1941. After his return to Trinidad and Tobago, Ellis Clarke was called to the Bar in his homeland, engaging in private practice from 1941–1954. Between 1954 and 1962 Ellis Clarke held several posts in the Colonial Government: Solicitor General, Deputy Colonial Secretary, Attorney General and Constitutional Advisor to the Cabinet.

After the attainment of Independence, Ellis Clarke became a foreign diplomat, holding numerous posts between 1962 to 1976, sometimes simultaneously, including Trinidad and Tobago's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

He was an ambassador for Trinidad and Tobago to the United States and Mexico. He was also Trinidad and Tobago's Representative on the Council of the Organisation of American States. He also held the post of Chairman of BWIA from 1968 to 1973. He was appointed Governor-General by Her Majesty the Queen of England in 1972, and assumed duties on 31st January 1973.

Ellis Clarke was involved in the draft Constitution, culminating in his attendance at the Marlborough House Conference from May 28 to June 8, 1962.

Upon proclamation of Republican status on September, 1976, the post of Governor-General became obsolete. Following a meeting of the Electoral College, as provided by the Constitution, Ellis Clarke was elected

unopposed as President, becoming the first President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago—an office he held until 1987.

He was bestowed the Companion of St Michael and St George (CMG.) in 1960 and made a Knight Bachelor (Kt Bachelor) in 1963. He was one of the first to be awarded this country's then highest honour, the Trinity Cross (now known as the Order of Trinidad and Tobago) in 1969.

Rudranath Capildeo



Rudranath Capildeo (02/17/20–05/12/70)

Rudranath Capildeo was born of a prominent Chaguanas family in 1920. He was educated at Queen's Royal College in Port of Spain and won an island scholarship in 1938. At the University of London, he obtained his Bachelors degree in Mathematics and Physics (1943) his Masters degree in Mathematics (1945) and his Doctorate in Mathematical Physics (1948). He also qualified as a barrister in 1956.

Prior to his entering the political arena in 1960, he was an educator having lectured at the University of London, taught briefly at his alma mater and served as Principal at the Polytechnic Institute in Port of Spain.

He founded and led the Democratic Labour Party in 1960, and became Leader of the Opposition in the Trinidad and Tobago, serving in the Parliament from 1960 to 1967. Having blocked the Williams-led PNM's efforts at Independence initially, he eventually assented, and Trinidad and Tobago gained its Independence on August 31, 1962.

His greatest contribution in this regard was the inclusion of the freedom of worship in the Constitution and Service Commissions.

National Motto



National Motto: Together We Aspire, Together We Achieve

Patrick Stanislaus Castagne



Patrick Stanislaus Castagne (3/10/16–5/5/00)

Patrick Stanislaus Castagne was the composer of the National Anthem of Trinidad and Tobago. Though of Trinidadian parentage, he was born in Guyana, but grew up in Trinidad. He attended St Mary's College.

He was an accomplished pianist with his own band and was well known for his involvement in the Dimanche Gras shows of the 1950s. An accomplished composer, he won a nation-wide contest which was held in search of the best anthem for this momentous occasion. It reflects the nature and strength of the people of Trinidad and Tobago, our courage as one nation working towards unity, despite our diversity.

The National Anthem should be accorded due respect when played, and all persons should demonstrate this by standing to attention. Men in civilian dress should remove their head dress and all persons are to stand to attention. Commissioned Officers of the Armed Forces, Gazette Officers of the Police Service, Cadet Force Officers and Officers of the Fire

Service, Prisons Service, St John Ambulance Brigade, Red Cross Society, Boy Scouts Association, in uniform are to salute.

The Anthem:

*Forged from the love of liberty,
In the fires of hope and prayer,
With boundless faith in our destiny
We solemnly declare.
Side by side we stand
Islands of the blue Caribbean Sea,
This our native land
We pledge our lives to thee.
Here every creed and race,
Find an equal place,
And may God bless our nation.
Here every creed and race,
Find an equal place,
And may God bless our nation.*

Marjorie Padmore



Best known for The Independence Pledge, Marjorie Padmore was one of a pioneering team of educational broadcasters in the 1960s. She was the first woman to head the Broadcasting Unit of the Ministry of Education until she left in 1976 for the post of Director of the School of Music at the National Cultural Council.

The Pledge

*I solemnly pledge to dedicate my life
To the service of God
And to my country.*

*I will honour my parents,
My teachers, my leaders and my elders,
And those in authority*

*I will be clean and honest in all my thoughts,
My words and my deeds.*

*I will strive, in everything I do
To work together with my fellowmen
Of every creed and race
For the greater happiness of all
And the honour and glory
Of my country.*

Songs Of Patriotism:

God Bless Our Nation

Composed by Marjorie Padmore

*God bless our nation
Of many varied races
May we possess that common love
That binds and makes us one.
Let it be known around the world
That we can boast of unity
And take a pride in our liberty.*

*God bless our isles
Of tropic beauty rare
Of flaming poinciana and shady immortelle
The warm and sparkling waters
That break upon our shores
Beat out a tune that seem to tell
We take a pride in our liberty.*

*God bless our leaders
Give them grace to guide
Bestow on them thy judgment wise
To rule our land aright
To keep the flag of freedom high
That we may sing most lustily
We take a pride in our liberty.*

Our Nation's Dawning

G Carlton Sampson

*Come, come away, hail to the day
This is our land's great morning
Birds in the trees waft to the breeze
Songs of our nation's dawning.
Hummingbird bright, lend your delight,
Ibis your scarlet feathers;
Kiskedee call, summon them all*

*This is a day of wonders!
O land of fairest beauty
We pledge our lives to duty
And vow this day to serve thee.*

*Flamboyant gay, make glad the day
Colorful blooms resplendent
Hibiscus hedge witness our pledge
And honour this day transcendent.
Fireflies bright, shine through the night:
Illumine our thanksgiving
Of this great day each heart can say
This is our Nation's Dawning!*

*Three sister hills, list to the trills
Echoing to high heaven
And from the sea, the blue Caribee
Breezes will join the revel.
Palm trees on high reach to the sky
While bells aloft are pealing
Man, bird and beast, earth, sea and sky
Raise chants of joy excelling.*

Portrait of Trinidad

The Mighty Sniper (Mervyn Hodge) 1965 Calypso King

*Trinidad is my land and of which I am proud and glad
But I can't understand why some people does talk it bad
But I know all of dem who running dey mouth
Don't what dey talkin 'bout
They will talk 'bout here every day
But the right thing they would never say.*

*Like our sportsmen being rated among the best
Our scholars have sat and passed every test
To put us right alongside the best
But then Our Pitch Lake is the greatest one of its kind
Our sugar and oil is really refine
So you see my friends this is a real King Solomon's mine.*

*They does talk a lot of nonsense,
Me ain't know what they doing it for
About so much violence,
Man you could swear that we fighting war
We have our delinquents to face just like any other place
Man the things they does say 'bout here
Is really too much for me to bear.*

*And my people are daily making progress
Without any form of stupidity
And in this way we bong to make success
For when we moving, we all move as one body
No bickering between you and me
For Our policy stand for racial equality.*

*All of dem whey talking
They either drunk or staring mad
Or maybe they forgetting Mr. Universe belongs to Trinidad
And yet we have men of high talent and skill
With high hope of improving still
And if you think all this is a lie the Mighty Sniper will tell you why.*

*For our steelband is the best talent in dis world
By calypsoes our stories are told, with rhythm to touch your soul
And Trinidad, this lovely land of my birth
Small but overwhelming in worth
And Carnival is the greatest festival on earth.
Now when a stranger spending a little time in this lovely isle
Every day you see him, he always have a happy smile
And when his time for him to depart
He would say with tears in his heart
I'll be back, you can bet your life
And if I can't come I go send my wife.*

*And when he tells her, he really wants to come
To drink a little rum and have plenty fun
In this island in the sun.
So Trinidad and foreigners do recall
It doesn't matter whether big or small
Or if you rich or poor
Friends we cater for one and all.*

*Our steelband is the best talent in the world
By Calypso's our stories are told
With rhythms to touch yuh soul
Trinidad, this lovely land of my birth
Small but overwhelming in worth
And as you know Carnival is the greatest show on de earth.*

A Nation New Is Born

G. Carlton Sampson

*Wave sugarcanes wave
Palm-trees sway your crowns
Immortelle, frangipani, poui
Put on your floral gowns
Make gay the roadsides and the hills
Independence Our People fills
A Nation New is born.*

*You local birds pour forth your songs
Oh Semp and Acravat make glee!
You Bluebirds chirp, Hummingbird Birds hum
Sing out O Keskidee!
Make gay the roadsides and hills
Independence Our People fills
A Nation New is born!*

*Calypsonians sing an anthem
Of your sunny land and seas
Steelbandmen beat out a road-march new,
About our tropical trees
Make gay the roadsides and hills
Independence Our People fills
A Nation New is born!*

*Trinidad and Tobago
Show forth your spirit of glee
Trinidad and Tobago
Your People shall be free
Leap to the road-march
Shout to the hills
For Independence Our Country fills*

*A Nation New is born.
Hail the sun rise, blessed morn
Whereon new hopes and joys are born
of mixed and varied peoples*

*Determined to be one.
Sing out your praise O people free
With chimes and joyous revelry
For Independence Our Country fills
Our Nation New is born.*

This Is My Flag

Rocky McCollin (Composer)

*Many years ago three small ships sail across the sea
And the Captain of those ships discovered La Trinity.
But when the English takeover me and you
They gave us the Flag, The Red, White and Blue.*

*But now we could tell them
This is my flag
The Red, White and Black
There's no turning back
To look for the Union Jack
And so mih sons and mih daughters
Could now boast and brag
About the Red, White and Black
That's my Flag.*

*I use to take it cool under the Colonial rule
Until one day a Great Man came my way
He toured the country and educate the population
And the Red, White and Black was the birth of a Nation.*

*This is my flag
The Red, White and Black
There's no turning back
To look for the Union Jack
And so mih sons and mih daughters
Could now boast and brag
About the Red, White and Black
That's my Flag.*

*August 1962 the date our dream came true
When we walked alone our lonely road home
No more mother country to guide our destiny,
But the Red, White and Black which means you're free.*

*So now we can tell them
This is my flag
The Red, White and Black
There's no turning back*

*To look for the Union Jack
And so mih sons and mih daughters
Could now boast and brag
About the Red, White and Black
That's my Flag.*

*My Nation is cosmopolitan
Each owes toward black as white
Each creed and race has an equal right
Now we're not turning back
Let us all together salute the Red, White and Black.*

*So now we can tell them
This is my flag
The Red, White and Black
There's no turning back
To look for the Union Jack
And so mih sons and mih daughters
Could now boast and brag
About the Red, White and Black
That's my Flag.*

Our Model Nation

Sung by: Mighty Sparrow

*The whole population
Of our little nation in not a lot
But oh what a mixture of races and culture
That's what we got
Still no major indifference
Of race colour religion or finders
It's amazing to you I am sure
That we didn't get Independence before.*

*Trinidad and Tobago will always live on
Colonialism gone, our Nation is born
We go follow our leaders
They always do their best
We want to achieve
We going to aspire
We bound to be a success.*

*It is a Miracle
All these difference people can dwell so well
You see we are educated
To love and forget hatred
You know you know is so
You people whoa re foreign
Ah got a message
To give you when you going
Spread the word anywhere you pass
Tell the world their model Nation at last.*

*The revenue we make
From the Oil and the pitch Lake
Is great but wait
We got cocoa and copra, banana and sugar, coconut citrus
We may be small but we wealthy
Pound for pound we will beat New York City
We got beaches and hotels built by Hilton
Our Nation is second to none.*

*You may not believe this
But we didn't achieve this
With floods of blood
Is leaders like Butler
Cipriani and the Doctor
They fight for what is right
So now I am congratulating
All our leaders from the present
Back to the beginning
They have fought now the battle is won
Thanks for a good job and well done.*

National Emblems:

The National Flag:



The National Flag was designed by the Independence Committee, appointed by Parliament, to advise on the design of the Flag and Coat of Arms and to choose a Motto for the nation. On June 26, 1962, the report of the Committee was approved, and a picture of the National Flag was published.

The colours of the Flag are Red, White and Black.

Red is the colour most expressive of our country, and represents the vitality of the land and its people. It is the warmth and energy of the sun, the courage and friendliness of the people.

White represents the sea by which these lands are bound, the cradle of our heritage, the purity of our aspirations and the equality of all men under the sun.

Black represents the dedication of the people, joined together by one strong bond. It is the colour of strength, of unity, of purpose and of the wealth of the land.

The colours represent the elements of Earth, Water and Fire which encompass all our past, present and future and inspire us as one united, vital, free and dedicated people.

The official description of the flag is as follows:

On a Red Field, a Bend Dexter Sable bordered Silver, that is to say, there is on the Red Field a diagonal form left to right in Black bordered with White. The width of the Black and White bands joined side by side at the upper dexter corner of the Flag is one-fifth of the width of the White and

Black bands together. The width of the Black is therefore four-sixths of the total width of the White and Black.

The Black and White diagonals must always point to the peak of the staff.

The dimensions of the National Flag shall be in the proportions of five to three (5:3). For flags carried at sea the dimensions shall be two to one (2:1).

There are special days upon which the Flag may be flown freely by all citizens as follows:

Independence Day 31st August

Republic Day 24th September

Remembrance Day 2nd Sunday in November

Any other date that may be prescribed from time to time.

Special protocols govern the use of the Flag.

President's Residences

1. The President's Standard is a personal standard and should fly continuously, day and night, as long as His Excellency is in residence.
2. The President's Standard should be lowered as His Excellency leaves the grounds of Government House only when he is to be away for the night. One such day when His Excellency is to be away for the night, his Standard is, immediately on his departure, replaced by the National Flag between the hours of 6:00am and 6:00pm. On His Excellency's return, as he enters the grounds, his Standard is hoisted and the National Flag (if flying) lowered.
3. When the National Flag is flown in place of the President's Standard it should be lowered at 6pm and hoisted again at 6am daily. The National Flag should be flown from the same mast as that used for the President's Standard.
4. On the special days of national significance listed in section III above the National Flag should be flown together with the President's Standard to the left of it and at the same height on a separate flagstaff. When the National Flag is flown with the President's Standard it should be hoisted at 6am and lowered at 6pm.

5. The President's Standard being a personal standard should never be flown at half-mast except in the event of the death of the President. When occasion demands that a flag be flown at half-mast, the National Flag should be used.

Prime Minister's Official Residence

The National Flag should be flown daily from 6am to 6pm at the Prime Minister's official residence.

Government Buildings

The National Flag should be flown daily during working hours on or in precincts of important Government Buildings. On the special days for the display of the Flag listed in section III above, the Flag should be flown from 8am to 6pm.

Educational Institutions

The National Flag should be flown on school days on or in the precincts of all state and state-aided educational institutions from 8am to closing time. On the first day of the term the flag should be ceremonially hoisted and on the last day, ceremonially lowered. In this context the term "ceremonially" should be taken to mean in the presence of all students assembled and with the singing of the National Anthem.

Motor Cars

The undermentioned persons may, besides their own distinctive flags, fly the National Flag on their official or private cars when occupied by them for travelling on official duty: At other times the National Flag on such cars should be removed or sheathed.

1. The Prime Minister
2. The President of the State
3. The Speaker of the House of Representatives
4. Members of Cabinet
5. Heads of the Country's Permanent Overseas Missions.

The Flag should be on a staff firmly affixed to the right fender of the car, the staff being of sufficient height to ensure that the Flag does not touch the body of the car.

Prohibited uses of the national flag

1. The National Flag must not be dipped to any person or thing; this honour will be rendered by the Defence Force Colours or where appropriate by the flags of institutions, organizations, etc.
2. The National Flag should not be used for purposes of adornment or advertising. It should not be printed or embroidered otherwise reproduced on such articles as handkerchiefs, uniforms or clothing of any kind, or furniture, cushions, etc. It should not be printed or otherwise impressed on paper boxes or napkins or anything intended for temporary use and discard. It should not be used as any part of a disguise costume.
3. The Flag should not have placed on it or attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, work, figure, design, picture or drawing. It should not be used as a commercial trade mark. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the National Flag is flown.
4. The Flag should not be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying or delivering anything.
5. The Flag should not be festooned over doorways, arches, etc., or tied in a bowknot, or fashioned into a rosette, or used as drapings. It should not be drawn back or drawn up in folds but always allowed to fall free.
6. The Flag should not be displayed, used or stored in such a manner as would permit it to be easily torn, soiled or damaged in any way.
7. The Flag should not be used as a covering for a ceiling.
8. The Flag should not be allowed to touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise

A license must be acquired to reproduce and sell the National Flag. Customs has the authority to seize unauthorized and inconsistent National Flags coming into the country.

The Coat of Arms:



Designed by a committee formed in 1962 to select symbols representative of the people of Trinidad and Tobago, the Coat of Arms is among the best-known national emblems. Among those on the Committee were artist Carlyle Chen and Carnival designer George Bailey. The design of the Coat of Arms was approved in 1962 by the College of Arms.

It is the seal of State of the Government, and is located at the top of all Government documents. It can only be displayed in full colour (with all colours consistent), gold, silver, bronze, or black and white. A license is required to acquire and reproduce the Coat of Arms. Three birds are represented on the Coat of Arms: the Scarlet Ibis, the Cocrico (native to Tobago) and the hummingbird, all in their natural colours.

The three ships represent the Trinity as well as Columbus' three ships. The three peaks were principal motifs of Trinidad's early British colonial seals and flag-badges and commemorated Columbus' decision to name Trinidad after the Blessed Trinity and the three peaks of a Southern Mountain Range, the "Three Sisters". The fruited coconut palm was used on the great seals of British colonial Tobago, when the island was a separate administrative unit.

The motto—"Together We Aspire, Together We Achieve" promotes harmony in diversity for national achievement. The official description of the Coat of Arms is as follows:

Arms: Per chevron enhanced sable and gules of chevrenel enhanced argent between a chief two hummingbird respectant gold and in base three ships of the period of Christopher Columbus also gold the sails set proper.

Crest: Upon a Wreath argent and gules in front of a Palm Tree proper a Ship's wheel.

Supporters: Upon a Compartment representing two Islands arising from the sea, on the dexter side a Scarlet Ibis and on the sinister side a Cocrico, both proper and with wings elevated.

The National Flower:



The national flower, the Chaconia, is also called "Wild Poinsettia" or "Pride of Trinidad and Tobago", is a flaming red forest flower, belonging to the family Rubiaceae. This flower owes its botanical name *Warszewiczia Coccinea* to the Polish-Lituanian plant collector Joseph Warszewicz. The title "Chaconia" was given in honour of the last and most progressive, Spanish Governor of Trinidad, Don Jose Maria Chacon.

This flower, known by its long sprays of magnificent vermilion usually blooms around the time of the nation's anniversary of Independence. As an indigenous flower it can be said that it has been witness to our entire history. In this way it represents the cycles of life and the continuity of the nation. The colour of this bloom also echoes the symbolism found in the red of the Flag and on the Shield of the Coat of Arms.

Although the single Chaconia has been used, it is the double that is indigenous to Trinidad and Tobago and which it has been suggested should be used.

The National Birds:

The National Birds, which are represented on the Coat of Arms of Trinidad and Tobago are:

The Scarlet Ibis which represents Trinidad, and The Cocrico, which represents Tobago.

Both are protected by law.



The Scarlet Ibis (*Tantalus Ruber*) is a neo-tropic species of exotic bird wildlife that is found in the Northern parts of South America. The species range from the coastal region of Brazil to the south and Colombia to the north. The greatest population is in Venezuela. Trinidad sits on the continental land shelf of South America off the coastline of Venezuela and as a result the birds are present here.

Its largest habitat in Trinidad is the Caroni Swamp.

The Scarlet Ibis is a gregarious bird that can be seen roosting, feeding and flying in large number. The bird has a wing span of 31 inches for the male and 29 inches for the female and the height from the bill to the toe is 29 inches for the male and 27 inches for the female. The Scarlet Ibis is completely scarlet when mature, except for the tips of the wings that are iridescent bluish black in colour. The bird is brown when young. The bird has a long de-curved bill about 7 to 8 inches long that is used for probing the mudflats for a variety of crustaceans that form its diet.

Its food consists of many crustaceans including several species of fiddler crabs, shrimps, fishes, insects, frogs, snails and decomposing organic matter. The feeding flock of ibises will move in one direction and then double back. When the crustaceans borrow deep into the mudflat the birds will jab their bills deep in trying to catch their prey. After a while the flock flies a short distance away, giving the crustaceans a chance to

return to the surface. Then they return and the feeding frenzy will start all over again.

In the afternoon the Scarlet Ibises return to roost on the mangroves. As if by some command, flock after flock will come in and transform the mangroves into 'Christmas' trees. The Scarlet Ibises dominate the crown while Egrets and Herons and other species of birds use the centre and lower sections of the roosting tree. This is an awesome sight, iridescent in the colours of red, white and black in their roosting area in the Caroni swamp.

The Cocrico



The Cocrico (*Rufus Tailed Guan*) is a native of Tobago and Venezuela but is the only game bird on the island and is referred to as the Tobago Pheasant. It is about the size of a common fowl, brownish in colour with a long tail. They go about in flocks of about six and their quaint calls can be heard in the early morning and late evenings.

The National Instrument: The Steel Pan



The steelpan was invented in Trinidad and Tobago and is widely regarded as the only major musical instrument to be invented in the 20th century.

The Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards describes the steelpan as “a definite pitch percussion instrument in the idiophone class, traditionally made from a steel drum or steel container. The metallic playing surface is concave with a skirt attached. The playing surface is divided into convex sections by channels, groves and/or bores. Each convex section is played by striking the pan with sticks to produce musical notes.”

In order to emit that orchestral sound, every group of pans needs to have a certain range-just like the instruments in a traditional orchestra. The difference is that instead of having different instruments contribute to the range of sounds, the pan is flexible enough to do it all.

The evolution of the steelpan dates back to the 1930s and 1940s, but had its genesis in tamboo bamboo, an ensemble made up of different lengths of bamboo. Gradually other elements made their way into the tamboo bamboo bands including “bottle and spoon” and bits of metal and discarded steel drums.

1935 is generally accepted as the year heralding the transition from bamboo to metal. Controversy surrounds the issue of the first person to play a tune on a pan. Among those credited with this honor are Victor “Totie” Wilson and Emmanuel “Fish Eye” Olivierrie, but it is Winston “Spree” Simon, whose impromptu concert while parading before dignitaries, including the Governor, who became the acknowledged ping pong virtuoso.

The years following the end of the war in 1945 saw the steelpan under attack from within and without. The steelpan riots started with clashes between rival bands at Carnival and carried on after the festivities. Society also had not accepted the steelpan widely, and there were scathing editorials seeking to have this “primitive, savage expression of the dregs of society” banned.

Defenders of the cause of the steelpan arose to defend it. Such persons included Albert Gomes (politician), Canon Max Farquahar (columnist), Lennox Pierre (lawyer/social worker) and Sydney Espinet (Editor). The dedication of members of the steelpan fraternity including Anthony Williams, Ellie Mannette, Neville Jules and Bertie Marshall, has allowed the instrument to progress from adversity to its elevation as the National Instrument of Trinidad and Tobago.

National Awards:

The National Awards of Trinidad and Tobago acknowledge the involvement of citizens and non-nationals who have had a significant and positive impact on the twin island Republic. The awards which were instituted in 1969 have been presented yearly in four categories, they are:

- The Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (replaced the Trinity Cross as the Highest Award)
- The Trinity Cross (Last awarded in 2005)
- The Chaconia Medal
- The Humming Bird Medal
- The Public Servants’ Medal of Merit



Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

The Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago was installed as Trinidad and Tobago's highest national award in 2008 and replaced the Trinity Cross for distinguished and outstanding Service to Trinidad and Tobago.

The design of the Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago acknowledges the contribution of the first inhabitants of Trinidad and Tobago embodied in the crest surmounting the medallion. The waves and constellation tell the story that Trinidad and Tobago consist of people from all over the world and their descendants, bringing social and cultural attributes to produce a special, talented people with great potential.

The award is 18 carat yellow gold and hangs from a short-length, striped gros-grain ribbon in the national colours, red, white and black. On the front of the award there are three circles each encompassing a feature of the National Symbols of Trinidad and Tobago, with a crest at the top. Within the crest is a feathered head dress of an Amerindian chief, which represents the aboriginal culture of the twin island.

The centre of the design features a disc, upon which the familiar image of one of our national birds, the Scarlet Ibis is standing on the south-western peninsula of Trinidad and the Mot Mot perched on the image of Tobago both imposed in bas-relief. At the top of the circle is the Chaconia Flower, the National flower of Trinidad and Tobago. In the middle circle there is a display of twelve outer notes of a tenor pan. On the notes are a pair of pan sticks. The steel pan is placed on the award as it is the National instrument of the twin island republic. Within the third and outer circle are images which represent the sea and sky. Waves at the bottom represent the sea whilst the sky is represented via clusters of star shapes and fine granulation.

On the back of the award, the words "Order of the Republic" are engraved. The name of the Society to replace the Order of the Trinity is The Distinguished Society of Trinidad and Tobago and the initial O.R.T.T. is to be used by future holders of this award, after their names. The Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is only awarded in gold and is limited to five recipients each year, though the number may be less.

The Medal for the Development of Women



It is to be granted to individuals, for their contribution to the development of women's rights and issues. Like the other medals, with the exception of the Order of The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the Medal for the Development of Women may be awarded in gold, silver and bronze to a maximum of ten persons a year.

Design:

The medal consists of three parts: a medallion to which is attached a bar and winged shaped which partially surrounds the medallion and is hinged to it.

The symbols:

1. Women's symbol-(This symbol for the planet Venus is used in Biology for the female sex and is a stylized representation of Venus' hand mirror. Generally it is a circle with a small equilateral cross underneath.) In this drawing it occupies the centre of the medal and its cross quadrisect the map of Trinidad and Tobago.
2. A Globe-representing the world is contained within the circle of the symbol.
3. A winged Form-articulated and suspended from the central disc is a stylized winged shaped element whose radial sections are defined in bas relief.

The Trinity Cross



The Trinity Cross was the highest National Award in the twin island Republic. On June 5, 2008 the Trinity Cross was replaced by the Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. The Trinity Cross was granted to nationals and non-nationals of Trinidad and Tobago who portrayed distinguished and outstanding service to Trinidad and Tobago. It is also awarded for gallantry in the face of the enemy, or for gallant conduct. The identifying colour on the Borders of Ribbons for this medal is gold.

The recipients of the first Trinity Cross Gold were:

- Dr. Rudranath Capildeo for his contribution in the sphere of Science.
- Ellis Clarke (Sir)-C.M.G., Q.C. who drafted the Constitution of Independent Trinidad and Tobago
- Solomon Hochoy (His Excellency Sir)-G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., O.B.E. The then Governor General and Ex-Officio of Trinidad and Tobago
- Finbar Ryan (His Excellency Count)-O.P. in the sphere of religion as he was the then Archbishop of Port of Spain.
- Hugh Wooding (The Right Honourable Sir)-P.C., C.B.E., Q.C. For his contribution to Justice as he was the then Chief Justice

Chaconia Medal



The Medal was aptly named after the Chaconia flower, which is the National Flower of Trinidad and Tobago and coincidentally blooms annually around August 31, just in time for Independence Day. It was first awarded in 1969 on the introduction of National Awards in Trinidad and Tobago. The identifying colour on the border of the ribbon for this medal is light green.

The Medal, which is awarded in gold, silver and bronze is awarded to persons who have served the country in the field of social work. It is awarded to community workers in respective organizations who have promoted community spirit and national welfare through their long and meritorious service. The Chaconia Medal is awarded to a maximum of ten persons.

Humming Bird Medal



Trinidad's indigenous name was Cairi or Kairi but often written Iere. Iere, which actually is an Arawakan terms that means "the island", was thought by many to mean, "The Land of the Humming Bird". The Humming Bird, one of the National birds of the Island, is also

represented through this medal. The identifying colour on the borders of ribbon for this medal is Royal Blue.

The Humming Bird Medal is awarded to persons in the private or public sector for loyal and devoted service to their community and country. Additionally, the medal, which is awarded in gold, silver and bronze to a maximum of fifteen persons, may also be presented to persons for their gallantry or any other heroic action.

Public Service Medal of Merit



The Public Service Medal of Merit is awarded to the members of the Civil and Protective Services. This Medal also includes recipients from the Defence and Cadet Forces, members of Statutory Boards and Committees of other quasi Public Services.

The Medal is awarded in gold, silver and bronze. The Gold medal is awarded to persons who have shown outstanding and meritorious service. The Silver Medal is awarded for long and meritorious service and the Bronze Medal is presented for good conduct and long service.

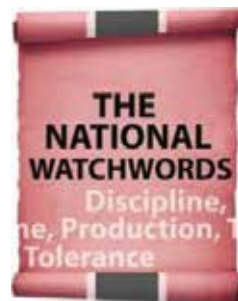
The identifying colours of the borders of ribbon are:

Gold Medal-Purple

Silver Medal-Light Blue

Bronze Medal-Silver

National watchwords



Discipline, Production, Tolerance

"I have given to the nation as its watch words discipline, production, tolerance, they apply as much as to you the young people as to your parents. The discipline is both individual and national. The individual cannot be allowed to seek his personal interests and gratify his personal ambitions at the expense of a nation. We must produce in order to enjoy. Wealth does not drop from the sky for any individual or any nation. Reduce production, skylark on the job, take twice as long to do a job and make it cost twice as much, do any of these things and in effect you reduce the total amount available to be shared among the total number of people. You don't pull your weight and you fatten at the expense of others... some of you have ancestors who came from one country, some from another, others from a third. Some of you profess one religion, some another, others a third or fourth. You in your schools have, like the nation in general, only two alternatives. You learn to live together in peace or you fight it out and destroy one another. The second alternative makes no sense and is sheer barbarism. The first alternative is civilized and is simple common sense. You the children, yours is the great responsibility to educate your parents, teach them to live together in harmony. The difference is not race, or colour of skin, but merit only difference of wealth and family status being rejected in favour of equality of opportunities. I call upon all of you young people to practice what you sing today and tomorrow; to translate the ideal of our national anthem into a code of everyday behaviour, and to make our nation one in which every creed and race find an equal place"

Dr Eric Williams, First Prime Minister T&T on the occasion of Independence Youth Rally at the Queen's Park Oval on August 30th, 1962.

50th Anniversary Logo



50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Logo Concept “My design visually reflects the nation’s journey in the Moko Jumbies whose increasing heights represent growth and progress over 50 years of independence. The Moko Jumbies represent the Trinity hills as well as being an integral part of the culture of the people. Their stilts represent cane-cutting implements used in the sugar cane industry when sugar was King, and the heads represent the lucrative oil industry in the age of advanced technology. The ribbons represent the continued, upward movement towards the nation’s positive future. The red, white and black colours represent the colours of the Trinidad and Tobago flag.”—Debbie Boos

The Government Trinidad and Tobago, in observing its Golden Jubilee, sought a logo that visually reflected the nation’s journey, engaging all citizens of Trinidad and Tobago, both home and abroad. The winning Logo, by Debbie Boos, was selected from among 625 entries from citizens as far as Jamaica, USA and the UK, over the period February 16th to March 16th, 2012.

Mrs. Boos, an interior designer by profession, comes from a family of talented musicians and artists, and has been practising as an artist for over 30 years. She also sits as a committee member of the Tall Man Foundation.

Her accomplishments include:-

Developing four (4) postage stamps for the 4th National Latin American Geological Congress held in Trinidad in 1979;

Creating the winning poster design for the competition

“Environmental Preservation for Land, Sea and Atmosphere” in 1981; and

Designing three (3) postage stamps for the Scout’s Association of Trinidad and Tobago to commemorate the 75th Anniversary for World Scouts in 1982.



50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO