

NTRC 10th Anniversary Recognition and Awards Ceremony

Vote of Thanks by Dr. Spencer Thomas

His Excellency Sir Carlyle Glean – Governor General

Hon. Tillman Thomas – Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for ICT

Hon. Joseph Gilbert – Minister Responsible for Telecommunications

Other Parliamentarians

Permanent Secretaries

Mr. Embert Charles – Managing Director of ECTEL

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Media

Today is indeed a memorable milestone in the life of the National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission. Ten years have now passed since the promulgation of the Act in September 2000, and today we recognize and celebrate 10 years of Continuous Growth in the ICT Sector.

We have much to be thankful for;

The NTRC has much to be thankful for;

The awardees have much to be thankful for.

Let me begin by thanking our Governor General, His Excellency Sir Carlyle Glean for his presence here with us and for so graciously presenting the awards.

Sir, we thank you sincerely.

We are also very fortunate and honoured to have with us the Honourable Prime Minister and several members of his Cabinet.

We thank you Sir, and for the sterling address and the vision outlined.

To Minister Joseph Gilbert we thank you for your remarks and for your leadership over the last two years as you continued in the same vein as your predecessor, Senator Gregory Bowen who for eight years allowed the NTRC to flourish with autonomy while providing the requisite support.

We were quite fortunate to have had two Ministers who possessed the professional acumen, boldness, candour, grit, and selflessness that facilitated our development.

The early days of liberalization are quite vivid on the memory.

We were quite fortunate to have had four appointed Commissions that properly directed the affairs and ensured the sustainability of the NTRC.

To the Commissioners present and past we thank you.

We were quite fortunate to have a dedicated, hardworking and committed staff complement-- The Secretariat being the cornerstone, engineer and contractor of our stability.

To all members of Staff of the Secretariat, present and past we thank you tremendously.

The NTRC does not and cannot function in a vacuum. It will be remiss of me not to say thank you to our external partners-- ECTEL and the other NTRCs, and indeed other agencies like CTU and ITU.

Mr. Charles, thank you very much and please convey our gratitude to your predecessors and the staff of ECTEL and the other NTRCs. We are grateful for the support received over the years and look forward to greater things in the future.

We thank all operators, broadcasters, ICT entrepreneurs, ham operators, several officials of government Ministries and departments.

We thank you for your support, cooperation and kind consideration to our various requests. We could not have done it without you: We thank you.

As we look at the developments over the years we cannot fail to recognize the changed telecommunications landscape.

While we note the great achievements in terms of infrastructure, applications and services including opportunities for enhanced productivity and wellbeing, we cannot ignore the challenges before us.

But as was the case in the past so shall it be in the future.

Collectively we will successfully address the challenges.

Collectively we will ensure that ICT facilitates the type of national development desired.

That ICT enables all sectors and people of the society to greater heights.

Sometimes we question whether we got it right when we see a poor house owner or a youth with two or three mobile handsets constantly and exclusively involved in unproductive voice communication.

We are assured that with continued education that the ICT applications and services will be fully utilized to advanced individual and collective wellbeing.

We question when we see the mobile penetration rate exceeds 100% while the internet penetration rate hovers around 13%. Deployment of Broad band infrastructure, applications and services is moral imperative.

We are happy to note that as we seek to implement our Universal Service Program 7 of the 9 project proposals received call for work in this area.

We thank the operators and ICT entrepreneurs for these proposals.

In conclusion, let me thank everyone for the great contribution in the past—

for their great contribution at present, and into the future.

Finally, to everyone here today, I say thank you for making this a very wonderful and rewarding evening and from the NTRC best wishes for 2011 and beyond.

I thank you.