



The National Carnival Commission of Trinidad and
Tobago

Carnival 2016 Media Launch

Feature Remarks

Delivered by

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V.I.P. Box
Queen's Park Savannah
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Salutations

ψ Minister of the Arts and Multiculturalism, Dr. The Honourable Lincoln Douglas

ψ Minister of National Security, Senator the Honourable Carl Alfonso

ψ Mayor of the City of Port of Spain, His Worship Alderman Raymond Tim Kee

ψ My fellow NCC Commissioners

ψ Michael Guyadeen, Chief Executive Officer, NCC

ψ Management and Staff of the NCC

ψ Other Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

ψ Members of the Media

Good afternoon, welcome, and thank you all again for joining us for our media launch for Carnival 2016. Later this year, in October/November, the NCC will also host a grand launch of carnival 2016 for all our stakeholders

Carnival the event has many components that fuel carnival the experience, as you can imagine, quite a bit of work goes into Carnival preparations, which is why it is so crucial to begin

them as early as possible. Truth be told, we have been planning for 2016 since the proverbial dust settled from last Season. Apart from always aiming to raise the bar, we have a special reason for doing so, which I will touch on later.

Carnival 2015 Recap

For now, I want to talk a bit about what happened with this year's celebrations. I am pleased to say that we recorded quite a number of successes and firsts.

We became intimately involved in the finalisation of the Parade of the Bands routes for Junior and Senior bands, the management of these routes, and oversight of parade marshals.

This is something we have repeated for next year, and in my brief remarks, I will share the official route with you.

Following on from last year, included in the management of the routes, we made a number of revisions to the layout. We redesigned the layout of the masquarader entrance at the Queen's Park Savannah to facilitate a smoother flow of bands.

Additionally, together with the Socadrome committee, we were able to revisit the Socadrome. Overall, we were able to relieve the backlog and congestion typically experienced along the route. This is something we aim to build on and improve for next Season.

I would like to thank the Parade of the Bands Route Management Committee for their hard work. Special thanks as well to Dr. Furlonge and his team at C&H Associates for their support and research in this regard.

Coming back to today, however, as I said, our intention is to build on the successes of 2015, and use them as a solid foundation for even more achievements in 2016.

So, that is the first point I wanted to make – The NCC is serious about improving our festival and we remain ready, willing and able to act on the feedback from all stakeholders.

We took and will continue to take deliberate steps to ensure collaboration and mutually beneficial relationships as we pursue the goal of a sustainable festival.

On an aside, I would like to indulge the media's support in letting the public know that we want to hear their ideas on how to make our Carnival better. Use our website, ncctt.org or write us via our official Facebook page and let us know some of your ideas on how we can further develop our Carnival. We would love to hear from you.

Silver Jubilee

The second point I wanted to raise today concerns our silver jubilee that we're going to celebrate in 2016.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am honoured to say that although I only started last December and figuratively had to hit the ground running with fewer than 2 months until the Season, I quickly learned that the NCC is a place, an organisation, a community of people that takes the business of Carnival very seriously.

It's not an idle statement to say that we are indeed a family; a family with long roots and a rich history that all started from the day we first opened our doors. And continuing from 1991, when the Act of Parliament was officially proclaimed mandating the NCC to be the custodian for the effective management of carnival and this has continued for the close to 25 years.

In that time, we've had inspired leadership. Under the watch of Alfred Aguiton, Roy Augustus, Carlos John, Brian Kuei Tung, Keston Nancoo, Howard Chin Lee, Kenneth De Silva, Patrick Arnold, and my direct predecessor Allison Demas, we have grown steadily.

Regardless of who was at the helm, we have aggressively pursued our mandate to manage, coordinate, and regulate Carnival activities, and make our beloved festival, better.

But what does all this talk about making things better mean?

It means making ourselves, as the preeminent Carnival organisation, strong enough and sturdy enough to last another 25 years and beyond.

It means working in tandem with the government of the day, carnival stakeholders and our people as we become sustainable and viable. Doing this will ensure that we thrive in the face of rapidly changing economic, political, global marketplaces.

So, while 2016 marks the 25th Anniversary of the National Carnival Commission, an organisation that I am proud to lead, our thinking always remains on what can we do differently and better. What can we do to take Carnival and our organisation to the proverbial next level?

In collaboration with the Interest Groups, we will continue to build on the successes of events such Panorama competitions, as well as our traditional carnival competitions and celebrations, including the Stickfighting competition, Kings and Queens Competition, and the Re-enactment of the Canboulay Riots.

However, we are also keen to hear ways that we can improve on it more.

Looking ahead to 2016, we earnestly sought to build on the successes we recorded this year. In so doing, we wanted to keep this momentum of achievement going into next year.

And given some of our bigger ticket items on the agenda for next season, I'd like to believe that we kept that momentum going.

One of the things we are pursuing is the return of creativity to Carnival.

We have made that our main goal for 2016 and to that effect, we have formed a sub-committee whose primary goal is to develop, reintroduce, and infuse a more diverse array of cultural elements into our celebrations.

One of the other projects that we are excited about, involves some ongoing work with the National Dance Association of TT

to create a training programme that will increase creativity in Carnival.

The programme will be hosted in December 2015 & January 2016 and runs for four to six weeks. It will involve the collaboration and cooperation of bandleaders and seek to create more impactful presentations on stage by the bands. The NCC therefore will incentivize the programme by offering the following prizes;

ψ **Most Creative Band Presentation on Carnival Tuesday**

ψ **Best Costumed Steelband on Carnival Monday.**

ψ **And we will have 10 prizes for Traditional Mas Bands on Carnival Monday**

I am also pleased to announce that in collaboration with the National Dance Association of Trinidad & Tobago, limbo will be a major component our Carnival Village; which will further liven up the already lively Village. For those that do not know, we host our annual Carnival Village in the Queen's Park Savannah 1 month leading up to celebrations.

It's a unique and fun-filled educational experience for all ages, with costume displays, photos on the origins and development of Carnival, short feature films, Savannah tours, storytelling, and traditional carnival character costume making demonstrations. And of course, nightly entertainment

We must also be cognizant of health and environmental issues and as such, I am also pleased to announce that the NCC has partnered with the Ministry of Health's Audiology Services to provide informative public seminars on the relation of excessively loud music and hearing loss to masqueraders and the public.

Something, I am sure you will agree is a critical additions to this year's slate of activities and events.

We have also commenced meetings with critical stakeholders including Ministry of National Security & Port of Spain City Corporation, and this year we intend to meet with the other corporations to ensure, as much as possible that there needs are met.

In case we forget, carnival does not only occur in Port of Spain and NCC mandate is to coordinate all carnival activities for Trinidad & Tobago.

Ladies and gentlemen, I will now announce the Parade of the Bands Route for Carnival Saturday, Monday & Tuesday 2016.

The Junior Parade of the Bands

1. The Junior Parade of the Bands route which was used in 2015 will be used in 2016, with slight amendments.

ψ All bands will assemble on St. Vincent Street, (Treasury Building) and move south along St. Vincent Street, moving east along South Quay (Mayor's Mas on the Move Competition Judging Point). Then north into Broadway, north into Frederick Street and will enter into the Queen's Park Savannah stage area from the east.

ψ Once bands have completed their QPS stage presentation, the competition ends. Parade commences promptly at 7 am.

ψ The parade will commence promptly at 7am and all bands must complete their QPS presentation at 3pm in preparation for the Panorama finals.

All bands must leave the Independence Sq. starting point by 12 noon. No bands will be allowed to commence their presentation after 12 noon.

The Senior Parade of The Bands

ψ Bands will move from Ana Street proceeding east along Ariapita Avenue onto Park Street, turn south along Richmond Street, east along Independence Square, south along St. Vincent Street, east on South Quay, then north

along Charlotte Street, and turn west onto Queen's Park East to enter the Savannah.

ψ Having exited the Savannah, bands will proceed along Victoria Avenue. Bands will then head west along Tragarete Road, south onto Pole Carew Street, onto Ana Street and then to Ariapita Avenue.

ψ Bands wishing to go to the Piccadilly Street (The Greens) judging point will proceed east along Independence Square North, onto Piccadilly Street (around the bridge), west onto Park Street then north along Charlotte Street, west on Queen's Park East to enter the Savannah.

ψ Steel Bands wishing to go to the Piccadilly Street (The Greens) judging point will proceed along the same route as the bands.

ψ Having completed their Queen's Park Savannah judging point, bands wishing to go to their LUNCH STOP at Nelson Mandela's Park, using the St. Clair avenue route,

must seek permission from the NCC. This is also applies to Socadrome bands on Carnival Monday

SOCADROME - 8.00 am – 4.00 pm on Tuesday ONLY

ψ Bands will proceed west along Tragerete Road to the Roxy Roundabout, south on Damian Street, south along Taylor Street, west on Ariapita Avenue onto Maraval Parkway.

ψ They will enter the Hasely Crawford Stadium through the ‘Castro Gate’ going anti-clockwise around the Hasely Crawford Stadium into the Jean Pierre Complex (The SOCADROME).

ψ Having exited the stage, bands will proceed onto Fitzblackman Drive, north along Hamilton Holder Street, then east onto Ariapita Avenue, rejoining the parade route.

The Way Forward – Conclusion

Ladies and gentlemen, our mission is as clear as it is compelling. For every product there is a life cycle and it is becoming apparent that carnival lifecycle was in decline. In 2015 we made great inroads into clearing the congestion issues on the route in POS and in 2016 our aim we intend to return more creativity in our mas.

There is no greater time than now for us to challenge our stakeholders and the entire national community to transform our beloved festival from good to great. As it was meant to be.

Despite being around for 25 years, we are continually learning new things and envisioning new directions about and for our Carnival. But if it's one thing we learn each day about planning Carnival celebrations, it's that it is never an easy task.

Quite frankly, it's not supposed to be. What it should be is meaningful. It should mean something to you and to the people who are part of it. Because when you put your heart, mind and soul into a goal, and your blood, sweat and tears into achieving it.

I want to publicly thank my fellow board members and our committed management team at the NCC for the work they have done and continue to do for the people of Trinidad & Tobago and as I close I challenge all of you to join with us to make carnival 2016 one of the best in recent history.

I thank you all for your attention.

-END-

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