



Portside ^{Online}

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PORT GETS \$25M. SCANNER



The Honourable Prime Minister cuts the ribbon to commission the newly acquired scanner into service

Prime Minister, the Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar, was the feature speaker at a ceremony held by the Ministry of Trade at the Port of Port of Spain on September 11, 2014 to commission a Linear-Accelerator X-Ray Scanning and Detection System.

Funding for the scanner came from 'grant funding' which was first made available to Trinidad and Tobago by the Chinese Government in 2003, however it was not until 2013 when the Chinese President paid a visit to this country that the present administration became aware of it, and at the directive of the Prime Minister, the Minister of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications, Vasant Bharath, was mandated to access this funding. In just over one year the scanner is now the property of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

The scanner can produce real-time, high-resolution images and can scan 15 containers per hour. Prior to its arrival an average of two containers per hour could have been inspected, as the procedure involved the

unloading, inspection and reloading of containers. The Prime Minister lauded the benefits of this modern scanner as a very positive development at the port, providing tremendous benefits for the nation in terms of port efficiency and border security.

Other speakers included the Honourable Vasant Barath, Minister of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications; the Honourable Stephen Cadiz, Minister of Transport and H.E. Huang Xingyuan, the Chinese Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago. Among the specially invited guests were Senator, the Honourable Gary Griffith, Minister of National Security; the Honourable Prakash Ramadar, Minister of Legal Affairs; Union leaders Mr. Michael Annisette and Watson Duke; Permanent Secretaries in the various represented ministries; Heads of Government agencies, among them, Port's Deputy Chairman, Mr. Suresh Gangapersad, PATT's Ag. General Manager/C.E.O. Ms. Charmaine Lewis and Ag. Comptroller of Customs, Mr. Amar Samaroo.

After cutting the ribbon to officially commission the new equipment into service, the Prime Minister was escorted to the room which houses the scanner to get a first hand view of the images on a screen.

RETIRES HONOURED

On Saturday 27th. September, a function was held to honour persons who retired from the service of the Port Authority in 2013.



Commissioner Sham Ghool delivers the feature address

Special tribute was paid to two of the longest serving employees, Earl Murray with 47 years service and Michael Williams with 46 years. The 56 retirees contributed a total of 1,898 years dedicated service to the organization. No one honoured had served the Port for less than ten (10) years.

Chief Executive Officer (POSINCO), Ms. Kathleen Maxwell welcomed the guests, followed by an inspirational presentation entitled 'Life begins at Sixty' by guest speaker, Reverend Edwina Reid. The feature address was delivered by Commissioner Sham Ghool on behalf of the Deputy Chairman. He thanked the retirees for their contribution and even gave an insight into the tenure of the two longest serving retirees. Ms. Vernessia Moise, Divisional Manager, Human Resources (Ag.) moved the vote of thanks to bring the curtain down on the formal part of the evening's proceedings.



Deputy CEO (POSINCO) Mrs. Kathleen Maxwell presents a token to former Estate Constable, Olson Bethelmy

Retirees were presented with a certificate of appreciation and a cheque. There was also a photo booth where each retiree had their portrait taken, which was later presented to them as a photo memento of the evening. Young King champion 1998, Sheldon Reid provided live entertainment for the evening. After a sumptuous dinner, some of the retirees took to the dance floor where they danced to the sweet sounds of D.J. Nigel Ramirez, while others opted to relax with family and friends as they reminisced on the good ole days.

CUSTOMS CLERK TRAINEES VISIT THE PORT

On September 03, the Port Authority hosted six prospective Grade 1 Customs Clerks, who are presently in training in preparation for the October examinations.

At the request of Nicholas Rostant, President of the Customs Clerks and Customs Brokers Association, the group, escorted by Ms. Pearl Valdez-Narcis and Ms. Laura Akal-Jawahir of the Public Relations Office, was taken to various departments where they received first-hand information on procedures relative to the clearing of cargoes.



A cross section of the audience



Casual Clerk, Nigel Hospedales explains the issuance of 'cart notes' to the trainees

Among the offices visited were Cargo Accounts, the Container Examination Station, Shed 10 and Spectrum. The students said that the practical session was of great assistance to them as it was difficult to learn the requirements of the job in a classroom setting, only. Mr. Rostant supported this view and thanked the Authority for affording the students this opportunity, even at very short notice.

Thanks to the Port, the students are well on the way to becoming certified Grade 1 Customs Clerks in the near future.

THANK YOU GUYS

Kudos are extended to those hard working guys at the Crane Maintenance Department and the Mechanical Garage for their contribution last July 27th when 205 moves (22.7 per hour) was achieved - the highest shift productivity for the six-month period, February 2014 to July 2014.

Without proper-working equipment these record breaking figures could not have been achieved. So, for your hard work and technical expertise, Portside says 'thank you', to the following employees:

Crane Maintenance

- Eduardo Noriega – Electrical Technician
- Peter Sweeney – Mechanical Technician

- Barry John – Electrician
- Sheldon Williams – Electrician
- Arkash Roop – Mechanic
- Kevon Cook – Mechanic
- Herbert Toussaint – Serviceman

Mechanical Garage

- David Francis – Mechanic
- Kevin Taylor – Mechanic
- Melville Dunmore – Auto Electrician
- Stephen Douglas – Gateman/Dispatch
- Randy Yearwood - Serviceman
- Leo George – Tyreman
- Sean Orr – Welder

Preventive Maintenance Crew

- Alfred Duntin – Mechanical Foreman
- Brent Glasgow – Mechanical Foreman
- Mike Moses – Mechanic
- Keshawn Taylor – Mechanic
- Robert Augustus – Mechanic
- Anthony Allum – Auto Electrician
- Terrance Smith – Auto Electrician

PORT SUPPORTS TASSARAMA 2014

The Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago was the proud sponsor of the 'People's Choice' prize in the junior category of the Tassa Association of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT) annual National Tassarama Competition, which was held on August 30th at the Ato Boldon Stadium.

Scheduled on the eve of Independence, the event was free to the public - a gift to the nation in celebration of 52 years of Independence. First held in 2000, the competition has over the years gained the support of corporate Trinidad and Tobago which has assisted in promoting the tassa drum as the second National instrument of Trinidad and Tobago.

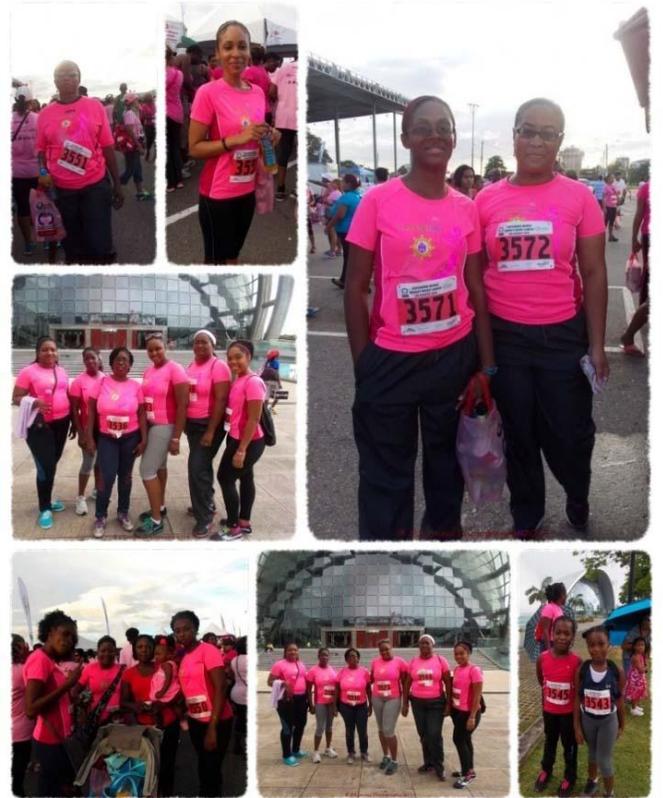


Pearl Narcis of the Public Relations Office presents a cheque to Ms. Agnes Raghoobarsingh, Secretary of the Tassa Association

PATT is pleased to be associated with this national cultural event.

PORT REPRESENTED AT 'HEEL TO HEAL' 5K

On Saturday September 13th, employees of the Port Authority assembled at the Queen's Park Savannah to participate in the Scotia Bank Women Against Breast Cancer 5k run, 'Heel to Heal'. Adorned in pink 'tees' bearing the Port's logo, the proud participants put their best foot forward for a cause they have been supporting for the past twelve (12) years.



Team Port Authority

Organizer of the event, Leisel Thorne was high in praise of the participants, many of whom have been representing the Port at this event since 2002.