

GREETINGS FROM THE HONOURABLE  
**Dr Keith Rowley**  
PRIME MINISTER OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

**The Point Lisas Industrial Port Development Corporation Limited (PLIPDECO), internationally recognised for its Port Operations and Industrial Estate Management, has continued to make an outstanding contribution to the economic growth and development of Trinidad and Tobago. On this 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we acknowledge the visionaries, at all levels, who were committed to the realization of a world-class facility at Point Lisas which could serve. On the occasion of your 50th anniversary, I take this opportunity to extend my sincere congratulations to the Board, management and staff of the Point Lisas Industrial Port Development Corporation (PLIPDECO) on successfully achieving this significant milestone.**

As you celebrate this special anniversary, some persons may find it ironic that what is usually a much awaited accomplishment comes at a time when the energy sector and its related downstream industries continue to feel the negative impact of sliding oil prices.

Yet if one reflects on the history of PLIPDECO, what emerges is a lesson in opportunity seized from adversity, tenacity and vision. From initially proposing the construction of a deep water harbour in San Fernando to rival Port-of-Spain's harbour which came into operation in 1939,

businessmen in South Trinidad in the 1950s came to recognise the far-reaching economic possibilities of a big industrial estate with access to deep water port facilities.

A harbour in San Fernando proved unfeasible but taking stock of the South's advantage of oil resources, these businessmen, now formalised under the umbrella of the South Chamber of Industry and Commerce, birthed the privately-owned Point Lisas Industrial Port Development Corporation (PLIPDECO).

Circumstances would later see majority ownership pass to Government, but the vision of a few has brought prosperity to the many citizens of Trinidad and Tobago.

As I stated in my recent address to the Nation, "it is precisely in times like these that there is room for an abundance of creativity and the birth of new and imaginative ideas. It is the opportunity for our potential as a people to rise to higher heights". The genesis of PLIPDECO is one such story. I am certain that within us, as a people, we have many more similar, successful narratives to create.

Once again, it is my privilege to extend to the past and present staff of PLIPDECO my sincere commendation for a job well done. I wish you all a very Happy 50th Anniversary.



Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley