Address At Commemoration of Trinidad and Tobago’s Independence Anniversary - East Orange NJ USA 2014

Good evening everyone.

Time to celebrate another Trinidad and Tobago independence anniversary with the city of East Orange as it raises the flag of the twin-island republic.

First, belated congratulations to the new mayor who we thank for not asking for our resignations. I hope that means we will be back next year.

Mayor Taylor, after reading your August message and your changes to the East Orange Water Commission, I must ask; have you heard of WASA?

Last year, we stood here, side by side, looking towards this year with boundless faith in our destiny.

David Rudder described a spirit so fiery that nothing in the world doh bodder we. The portrait of Trinidad . . . and Tobago painted by the Mighty Sniper, described a small King Solomon’s mine that was over-whelming in worth.

Who hides their wotlessness when Kes The Band fires up to proclaim theirs?

I now know what Benjai meant when he sang that we made good company. That’s us . . . Trinis.

But I’d like to know if anything in the past 365 days has moved the nation closer to where it resolves one crisis before tackling another.

Government ministers continue to lose their portfolios. Is that a stain on the country or the trademark of what will become good governance?

While Trini viewpoints passionately diverge, the media of a neighboring country quotes a government official there as wanting a Trini style leader.

Careful. There are Trinis ready to package up and donate a certain leader, postage paid.

Still, change is occurring but I insist it needs to quicken before our grandkids pick up Sniper’s portrait and ask; where is this place?

In a reference last year to the impact of serious crime, I wondered out loud about how great it would be if this year we could look back relieved the plague had been eliminated.

Instead, Trinis at home and the Diaspora must be doing their own wondering of if any government can meet its primary responsibility. Any government as the epidemic has outlasted two.
In looking towards the future, we must temper excitement and hope with healthy skepticism.

Amendments to the election process and constitution? Do they speak of good governance or power grabs?

Speculators are already predicting the deaths of democracy and racial tolerance. But that is Trini politics—passionate, hyperbolic and politically incorrect.

It is the best politics, as long as one is not tied to the bacchanal.

By coming out to this celebration, we reaffirm that we have no plans to cut that umbilical cord.

For those who believe He is one, may God continue being a Trini. Regardless of beliefs, may He continue to bless the nation.

Thank You.