

Kara John

12 years

Northgate college

October 13th 2009

The Honorable Patrick Manning
Prime Minister of The Republic of
Trinidad and Tobago

Dear Mr. Manning,

Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) is a multi-ethnic, multi-religious, multi-cultural twin island state situated in the southernmost part of the English speaking Caribbean. The country is endowed with oil and gas reserves, which accounts for its economic prosperity and for its prominence within the region. Nevertheless, the countrys greatest asset does not reside in its abundant oil and gas capacity, but in its people, and their ability to create a society that epitomizes the adage harmony in diversity. T&T can teach the world many things and in this essay I will explore four key ones.

T&T can teach the world how to live peacefully in a culturally and racially diverse society. In the country of T&T there are people with different cultural backgrounds, (Indian, Chinese, and African). Although that is the case we live in harmony. During carnival people of different races unite in celebration, celebrating this national festival. It is iconic and special because on the days you can see people of many races and cultures out enjoying themselves.

T&T can teach the world religious tolerance. We live together peacefully although there are many different religions. People of all religions live comfortably in two islands and respect each others right to practice his religion. To ensure that things keep running smoothly the government insists that all children are educated in religious studies and the main religious festivals are celebrated in schools. Another way we keep the harmony is by celebrating some of their religious festivals to show that we care about their beliefs

T&T can teach the world how to use the natural environment and physical attractions of a country for leisure entertainment and to generate income. The islands are renowned for their natural beauty. The locals use these spots, like Maracas Bay, Buccoo Reef and the rainforests to relax and regenerate and in so doing foster good health and relationship building, as often groups of

people from different communities meet at these attractions. These attractions are also used to promote tourism in the country, which generates income

T&T can teach the world how to rise above adversity of a colonial past and be creative and innovative. T&T has built up a strong nation since becoming independent in 1962 and it continues to do so based on strong values of tolerance, respect and justice. These values are transferred across generations, particularly through our oral traditions and in more recent times by use of modern technology and the media. Our sense of community helps ensure that cultural transmissions continue among the modern generation. T&T has shown the world that it can rise above adversity and be creative, for example inventing the steel pan, also known as the steel drum (made out of an old oil drum), which is the only instrument invented in the twentieth century and is our national musical instrument.

Mr. Patrick Manning, the best way for me to make you understand what T&T has to offer the world is to tell you it in poetry.

Enter the country, poui, humming bird and beautiful beaches greet you
Hear the sweet steel pan, tassa drum, soca and chutney
See the people: all colours, shape and form, moving to the music as one
Creativity is everywhere: look at the magnificent costumes!
Smell that pelau, roti, curry crab and dumpling
You feel you've died and gone to paradise in the sky
Is Trinidad and Tobago have you feel so high!!!!

Yours Sincerely

Kara John
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