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June 13, 2014

TO: NEWS EDITORS – For Immediate Release

CHAMBER REBRANDS BUSINESS HALL OF FAME TO “CHAMPIONS OF BUSINESS”

On June 9, 2014 the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce launched its **Champions of Business** Awards Ceremony – the rebrand of its Business Hall of Fame. This comes as the Chamber celebrates its 10th year of hosting the event.

The **Champions of Business** Awards Ceremony will be held on October 17, 2014 at the Hyatt Regency.

“The Chamber’s Business Hall of Fame has thus far recognised and celebrated 23 of our local business icons who, through enterprise, have had a historically significant impact on the economic and social prosperity of Trinidad and Tobago,” says Chamber CEO, Catherine Kumar.

Some of the Business Hall of Fame inductees have included business stalwarts such as Arthur Lok Jack; Helen Bhagwansingh; Robert Yorke (Tobago); William H. Scott; and Geoffrey Inglefield – just to name a few.

“In our **Champions of Business**, we will still have our Business Hall of Fame awards as the highlight of the ceremony, but we will also add two new award categories: *The Emerging Entrepreneur award* and *The Internationally Known...T&T Owned award*,” said Kumar.

The CEO explained that the Chamber, as the Voice of Business in T&T – whether large, medium, or small – believed that the rebrand to the **Champions of Business** Awards ceremony, was necessary, as it made it possible to not only continue to recognise business icons, but to also celebrate emerging entrepreneurs and business leaders.

Jean-Pierre du Coudray, Chamber Board Member and Chair of the Champions of Business sub-committee was also on hand to further explain the new award categories. For the Emerging Entrepreneur category, he explained: “Every winner in business starts here. At the heart of every business is an idea, a leader, and a vision. The emerging entrepreneur, who has a winning combination of all three, is making a positive and progressive impact on his OR her industry and community.”

For the Internationally Known...T&T Owned category, du Coudray explained: “Here, we are looking for a medium-sized business that is at least 75% owned by nationals of Trinidad and Tobago, that is also a Member of this Chamber, and that has been

profitable and growing fast. This company must have engaged in business development expansion with an established footprint either regionally or internationally, whether through an office presence and/or distribution to foreign countries."

Robin Lewis, General Manager, Retail and Commercial Banking, First Citizens, the company which has generously sponsored the Hall of Fame event almost from inception, was also at the press conference to express their continued support of and alignment to the **Champions of Business**.

The son of a Hall of Fame Inductee, Mr Nazir Ahamad – founder of Southern Sales and Services Co Ltd., who was inducted posthumously – was also on hand to speak to his own family's pleasure at having been part of the Business Hall of Fame, and their excitement to see it expand to include the two new categories.

While the Chamber's CEO acknowledged that there were still challenges faced by emerging entrepreneurs and leaders of expanding businesses, she felt that recognition by the Chamber for their contribution to developing the private sector, and possibly becoming future "hall of fame" Inductees would be a stepping stone towards their success.

As calls for nominations have been placed on the Chamber's website and facebook page, Kumar is encouraging the public to submit their nominations to the Chamber for all three categories.

(Please also see attached criteria)

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