iGovTT

intelligent . integrative . innovative

NATIONAL INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY COMPANY LIMITED

iGovTT News

ISSUE 3

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2016

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iGovTT News

New Year's Greetings

from the Newsletter Committee

Happy New Year from the Newsletter Committee! We want to take this time to wish you every success in the year ahead and welcome you to our first newsletter of 2016. We know that you've returned from the holidays refreshed and re-energised and we are keen to collaborate with you to make this one of the best years yet at iGovTT. We also want to urge you to join the Newsletter Committee, share your ideas and send us articles for upcoming issues.

This month's newsletter focuses on getting financially fit and ways to recession-proof your job. 2016 is a critical juncture for Trinidad and Tobago given the economic climate and now more than ever, we at iGovTT are focused on finding ways to create new value for the business. It may not always be smooth sailing but we are certainly excited about the possibilities that lie ahead.

We do hope you enjoy this edition and on behalf of the Newsletter committee, Happy New Year once again!

Going Green has been a trending topic globally for the past five years as the increasing energy or CO2 emissions (carbon footprint) of ordinary citizens, corporations and industries contribute to climate change, which in turn impact our everyday lives.

A carbon footprint is defined as the total amount of greenhouse gases produced to directly and indirectly support human activities within one year, expressed in equivalent tons of carbon dioxide (CO2). In other words, when you drive a car, the engine burns fuel which creates a certain amount of CO2. When you buy food and goods, the production of the food and goods also emitted some quantities of CO2.

At work, we too can do our part toward achieving the goal of a healthier environment, while at the same time lessening our ecological footprint. Oftentimes we receive emails that end with a footnote ***"Think before printing this email, conserve the environment"***. This is one way to reduce the amount of energy emitted by companies. We can reduce emissions by creating a green work place which can be beneficial as it can increase office efficiency and boost staff morale.

The following are a few ideas you can use to reduce your own carbon footprint at work:

1. REDUCE PAPER USAGE

- Opt for a digital document instead of a hard copy, encourage persons to email, use the intranet for internal telephone contacts, get e-subscriptions and use web resources wherever possible.
- Print "double sided" (as practised by iGovTT).
- Use electronic forms whenever possible.
- Store files on unit drives and the intranet instead of hard files.
- Review documents on the screen rather than printing them prior to sending out.
- Recycle – reuse boxes and use shredded paper for gifts and for packaging items.

2. SAVE ENERGY

- Set PCs, laptops, printers, televisions etc. to standby settings to save power when not in use.
- Unplug devices that use energy even when switched off such as phone chargers.
- Take the stairs instead of the elevator.
- Plug equipment into a power strip so all devices can be turned off simultaneously.

3. LIVE GREENLY

- Bring lunch to work in reusable containers.
- Use a stainless steel cup / BPA free water bottle to consume beverages.
- Turn off faucets to conserve water.
- Add or maintain plants in the workplace as they filter the air.

Let the green revolution begin! In the next edition we will address the benefits of going green.

Our Line Minister

Minister of Public Administration

The Honourable Randall Seth Mitchell

The Honourable Mr. Randall Seth Mitchell is currently the Member of Parliament for the constituency of San Fernando East and the Minister of Public Administration in the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. With this portfolio, Mr. Mitchell has been charged with the responsibility for the public service, ICT, Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT), the National ICT Company (iGovtt) and the Government Human Resources Company Limited (GHRS).

Mr. Mitchell, an Attorney-at-Law by profession, possesses a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of London and a Masters of Law from the University of Northumbria. He was called to the Bar in England, Wales and in Trinidad and Tobago. Mr. Mitchell is also pursuing his International Master of Business Administration degree with the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine.

A businessman extraordinaire, he founded and successfully managed three (3) businesses in the Pharmacy, Laboratory and Chemical industries. Prior to entering Government, he relinquished the ownership and management of these businesses. He is therefore no stranger to managing people and the myriad number of complex issues that arise in the work place.

A true son of the San Fernando soil, Mr. Mitchell has been involved in community work for many years, and it is this passion which spurred his interest in representational politics. His mission is to ensure that those who are most in need of help in whatever form have access to that help.

An avid squash player, Mr. Mitchell aims to bring the same on-court drive, determination and enthusiasm to his new assignment.

2016 GADGETS

SELF-DRIVING CARS. VIRTUAL REALITY. AUGMENTED REALITY.
SMART APPLIANCES. SMART HOMES. PERSONAL DRONES.

WELCOME TO 2016!

With technologies and components becoming cheaper, bringing innovation to the market is no longer prohibitive. Experimentation is now more affordable than ever. As 5G looms on the horizon, the network capacity needed to drive this extensive data transfer in the future is assured. There's nothing stopping us from living like the Jetson's. Flying cars isn't that big a jump from self-driving cars right? Maybe by 2020 will being to see everything coalescing into this 'new and digital future'. The technologies are already here - they just need to mature. Industries are transcending their boundaries to formulate products and services that simply were not possible before.

Faraday Future's FFZero1 Electric Car

Faraday Future's FFZero1 concept car was finally unveiled to the world at the 2016 Consumer Electronics Show (CES). The Chinese firm described its creation as 'the most extreme iteration of what it can build', leaving many wondering how such a bizarre design would work in the real world. The 1,000-horsepower FFZero1 includes the ability to exceed 200mph (321 kph) and accelerate from zero to 60mph in less than three seconds. It also includes a helmet to provide oxygen and water to the driver.

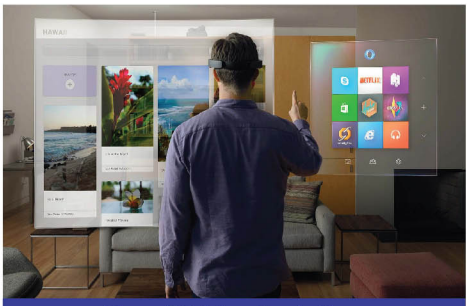
The Faraday Future Inc. FFZero1 concept vehicle. David Paul Morris/Bloomberg

Microsoft Hololens Headset

Virtual and Augmented Reality

Windows made quite an impression on 2015 with Windows 10 and Hololens. The OS release took a backseat, mostly, to the Hololens – an augmented reality headset that fed off the operating systems' facilitation of software interaction via the headset. Human controllers could create and visualize work in 3d, both real-time and real-life.

The difference between Microsoft's Hololens and the VR (Virtual Reality) headsets you have been hearing about is that the Hololens is Augmented Reality (AR). Virtual Reality replaces the real world with a simulated one, whilst Augmented Reality interacts with the real world environment and augments it with computer-generated sensory input such as sound, video, graphics or GPS data.



Microsoft Hololens Headset in use.

TVs

TV makers like Samsung, LG, Sony and TCL touted a new standard for screens called HDR or high dynamic range, which shows images with higher contrast and more vivid colours. There are however, only a handful of movies and TV shows that have been reissued in a format that takes advantage of HDR.

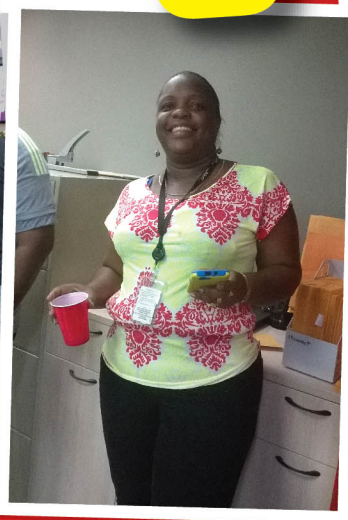
A gaming laptop that tracks your eye movements

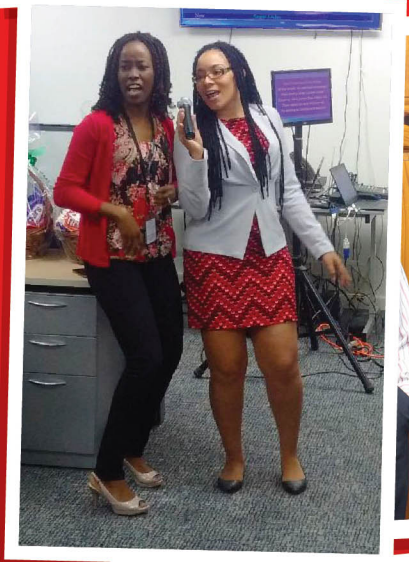
Tobii has been working for years on eye-tracking sensors for PCs so that you can use your eyes to navigate around the screen. Taiwanese firm MSI, revealed a gaming laptop that fully integrates the eye-tracking technology. What does that mean? It means you can shoot people with your eyes, that's what. The technology was layered on top of existing games so that players still control the way a character moves and the general camera angle with a traditional controller. Instead of having to flick through available targets, you can just look at the part of the screen where you want to aim, and then shoot or jump where you want to go. Tobii has partnered with Ubisoft to put the technology into the PC version of "Assassin's Creed: Syndicate" sometime this year.

Smart Appliances

Samsung unveiled a range of smart appliances at CES, including an internet-enabled fridge. This 'Family Hub' refrigerator will be able to help you do everything from message your family to virtually shop for food. The heart of the 'Family Hub' fridge is a 21.5 inch full HD LCD resolution screen located on the upper right exterior door. The screen allows you to use your phone to post calendars, pin photos, share kids' works of art and leave notes. One of the most impressive features is the addition of three cameras inside the fridge to capture an image every time the door closes. You can then access those images anytime using your smartphone and take a peek inside your fridge. Even if you're at the store and forget to check on what you need for dinner that night, the Samsung Smart Home app can take a look inside your Family Hub fridge.

christmas mingle





CAUTION
RESTROOM

Getting Financially FIT!

Excerpt from The Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission (TTSEC).

Many of our citizens spend a great deal of time and energy on becoming physically fit, which is an admirable quality. Of equal importance is the need to become financially fit and to maintain that fitness over various life stages.

HERE ARE SOME TIPS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER TO IMPROVE YOUR FINANCIAL WELL-BEING:

Early Working Years (Ages: 22-29)

- Request the services of a registered financial advisor to help you match your goals to a financial plan;
- Financial experts advise that you should try to ensure that you have at least six month's salary put aside in the event of an emergency like losing your job or being on extended sick leave;
- Do not yield to the temptation to buy everything your heart desires;
- Continue to save a minimum of ten percent (10%), more if possible;
- Meet all of your fixed expenses, clear off all of your debt, satisfy your needs and then see which of your 'wants' can be met.

Middle Years (Ages 30 – 49)

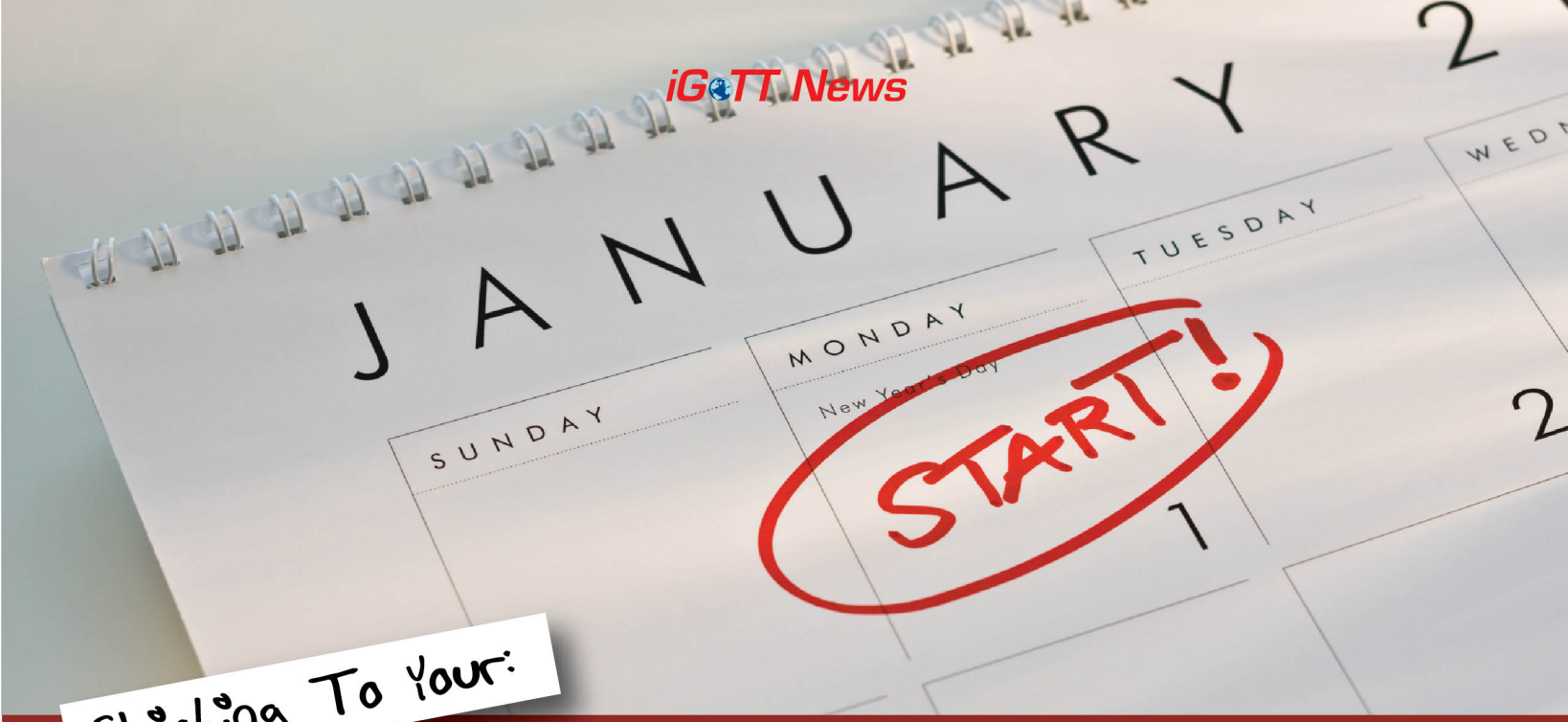
- As your income increases, so should the money you put aside for savings
- Ensure that you also put aside money in a retirement fund
- Consider the purchase of assets that appreciate in value over time such as real estate
- Consider investing in the stock market directly or through a mutual fund

Winding Down Years (Ages: 50 – 60)

- You should be working to ensure that you are free from major debt at least five years before the mandatory age of retirement
- Consider the purchase of real estate or property which can supplement your retirement income
- Ensure that you have appropriate insurance coverage so that your retirement savings are not eaten up by medical expenses

Retirement Phase (Ages: 60 & up)

- If you choose not to work, ensure that you are as careful with your finances now, as you were when you were younger
- Turn a hobby or passion into additional income (tutoring, interior decorating, coaching)
- Use your successful life story to help others learn how to be Financially Fit!



Sticking To Your:

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

It's that time of year – where we are determined to "do better," and "make this year the best one yet". For many, this means setting New Year's Resolutions which can be daunting and very difficult to follow all the way through. With this in mind, here are a few tips to aid in goal setting and sticking to your resolutions.

1. Start small and/or be realistic

How often do we set grand goals for ourselves that seem almost impossible but we are convinced we are going to follow through? Instead, make resolutions you think you can keep. For example, if your aim is to exercise more frequently, rather than blindly scheduling 4 or 5 days a week start with 3 and feel free to increase once you meet that target. If eating healthy is your goal, substitute heavy dessert with something else you enjoy, such as fruit or yogurt rather than restricting yourself which often feels like punishment.

2. Write them down.

Once you have decided and committed to your achievable goals and resolutions, write them down. This creates a greater connection between your 'thinking self' and your 'doing self' and makes the resolution appear more real than if you simply think it in your head. For added bonus, position these in a visible space so you are reminded each day.

3. Stay away from negative language

Use positive rather than negative demands when thinking about your plans. For example, rather than thinking "I can't be bothered to go to the gym today", think "I always feel so much better after a great workout". Highlighting the benefits are far more motivating than focusing on the negative and will propel you to stick to your goals.

4. Get some support.

Tell a friend or trusted family member about your goals. Speaking about it with someone you trust will help keep you focused. They will also provide you with support if needed. If you are uncertain or floundering at all, their support will assure and motivate so that you don't give up, just in case you feel like quitting.

Recession Proof Your JOB

In December 2015, the former Central Bank Governor announced that Trinidad and Tobago was officially in a recession, suffering its fourth quarter of negative growth. A recession is a sustained period of general economic decline defined as a decline in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for two or more consecutive quarters.

During this period, certain industries and employers are currently struggling more than others, but if the economy continues its downturn, many other industries and employers will also face financial pressures. The key is not to panic or make any snap decisions. Instead, a great approach is to be prepared and proactive about your career - because no one else will be if you are not.

So, in uncertain times - and really in any economic situation - what can you do to stay focused on your career and protect your job?

1. Network, Network, Network

Continue to grow and expand your network of contacts. Never stop networking. Many persons think that networking is only for when you are actively job-hunting, but the truth is once you start networking, you should never stop.

2. Build Your Brand Internally

Become a go-to person for vital projects and carefully (and tactfully) showcase your accomplishments so that management understands your value to the organization. If you have not done so already, be proactive in work assignments rather than simply doing your job. Initiate a conversation with your boss about other projects you could undertake for your department. Be the first to volunteer when the organization seeks people for new assignments, task forces, cross-functional teams - especially for projects in which the result could be an increased revenue stream or substantial cost-savings for the organization.

3. Build Your Brand Externally

By working to become better known in your industry or profession, you will add value both to your current employer as well as to yourself. Position yourself as an expert on your industry.

4. Focus on Professional Development Opportunities

A hallmark of successful people is that they never stop learning more about their profession/industry/career. Dispensable employees are those who still insist on doing the job as it has always traditionally been done while indispensable employees are on the cutting-edge of their profession.

5. Dust off the Resumé

At no time in your career - except when you're ready to retire - should your resumé not be current. Without question, in times of uncertainty, there is no excuse not to have an up-to-date resumé. Remember that there is no longer any such thing as one resumé. What you really need is a current framework for your resume - which you can then modify to fit any situation or employer you face. Your resumé showcases your career capital.

Finally, some experts suggest, in uncertain economic times you should be looking for other revenue sources - such as turning your hobby into a money-making business or selling stuff at artisan markets such as UpMarket. Attacking these five strategies will guarantee your standing with your employer, while growing your career capital and developing your brand in the marketplace.

WHO AUDITORS REALLY ARE

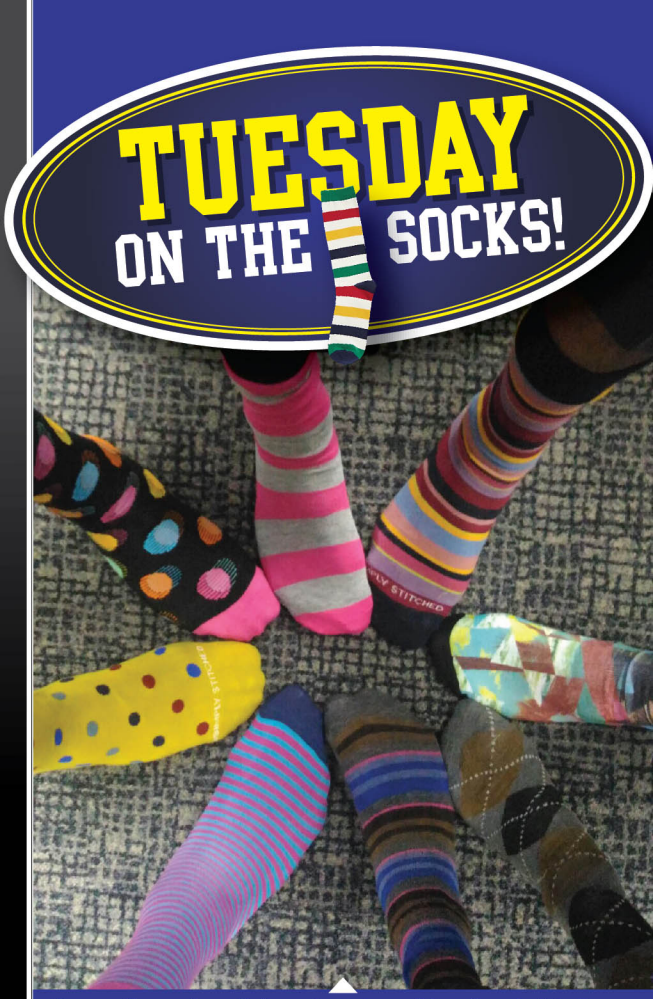
by Ria Chrysostom-Ryan

De mark buss! Somebody tief -
What we standing here lookin vex for?
Long time we know we had plenty risks!
Look, allyuh jus call de auditor!
Steups ..... I cyah believe it is almost haf pass three.....
You go ahead, play like yuh eh know -
Because company money loss now -
Iz audit time fuh all ah we!
Dem auditors iz de worse yes!
Dem like some police - always outta timing.
Dey have meh looking fuh ah set ah paper -
Man, I should be downtown liming!
And fuh a long time ah hearing people say - "Doh trust dem auditors....
Dey does talk sweet sweet but when dey done,
Dey does write yuh up in dey management letter".
Ah even hear after dey pass tru Finance,
De payroll woman lose she wuk!
I does watch mehself when dey around me - yes,
and warn Martin tuh keep he big mout shut!
But seriously allyuh know anyting bout what audit iz really about?
Somebody say how auditors can add value, save money
And wit dem yuh could really consult?
Do people know dat part of audit wuk –
Iz tuh confirm dat controls wukking in de system?
Cause plenty times we does hear people say
"De auditors auditing dem".

As your independent consultants allyuh need tuh know
who auditors really are!
As advisors and assurance providers, Internal Audit
could truly help make iGovTT reach far.

De End

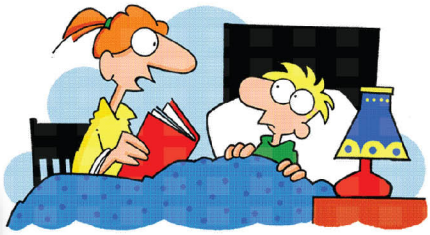
I HAVE A VERY PARTICULAR SET OF SKILLS - SKILLS I HAVE ACQUIRED OVER A VERY LONG CAREER. SKILLS THAT MAKE ME A NIGHTMARE FOR PEOPLE LIKE YOU!



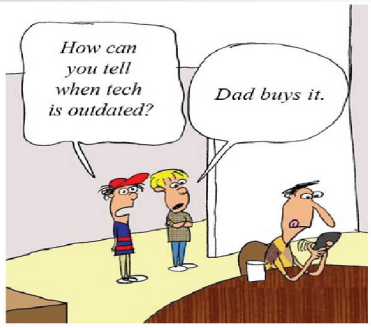
The gentlemen from Delivery issued a call for others to join them one Tuesday for 'funky socks' day – 'Rock Out With Your Socks Out!'. Well done guys!

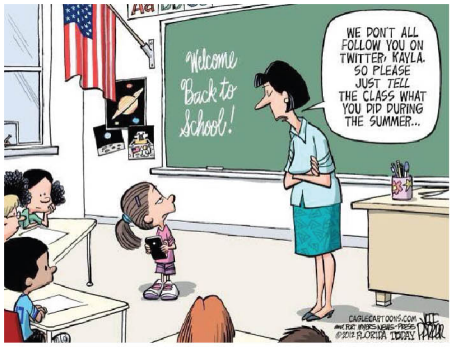
The ladies were not left out as they had their day to show their flair on Pumps Thursday.

TECH JOKES



"Romeo and Juliet met online in a chat room. But their relationship ended tragically when Juliet's hard drive died."

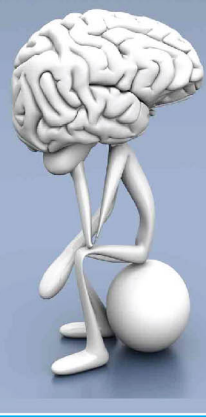




1. GUESS THE NEXT THREE LETTERS IN THE SERIES.
   GTNTL .....
2. WHAT CAN YOU HOLD WITHOUT EVER TOUCHING, OR USING YOUR HANDS?
3. WHAT HAS A MOUTH BUT CANNOT EAT, WHAT MOVES BUT HAS NO LEGS AND WHAT HAS A BANK BUT CANNOT PUT MONEY IN IT?
4. WHAT OCCURS ONCE IN EVERY MINUTE, TWICE IN EVERY MOMENT, YET NEVER IN A THOUSAND YEARS?
5. TWO GIRLS WERE BORN TO THE SAME MOTHER, ON THE SAME DAY, AT THE SAME TIME, IN THE SAME MONTH AND YEAR AND YET THEY ARE NOT TWINS? HOW CAN THIS BE?

ANSWERS:
1. T, T, S -- THE FIRST LETTER OF EVERY WORD IN THE SENTENCE
2. YOUR BREATH!
3. A RIVER
4. THE LETTER M
5. THE TWO BABIES ARE TWO OF A SET OF TRIPLETS

BRAIN TEASERS



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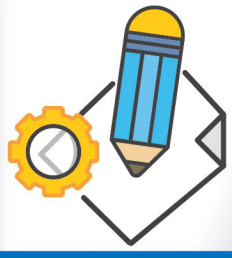

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Did you know?

Do you have any concerns or questions that you would like to raise with the Management Team?

CLICK HERE

myvoice@igovtt.tt

Kindly send your questions to ***myvoice@igovtt.tt*** by ***Friday 2:00 pm*** and these will be discussed at the Management meeting the next week.
A response should be provided to you by ***2:00 pm every Thursday***.

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