Deputy Chairman

Ms. Rachel Maikhoo

Address at the

Chaguanas Chamber of Industry and Commerce

Wednesday 22nd April 2015

Date: 20/04/2015

Thank you Mr. Joseph

- The Honourable Kevin Ramnarine, Minister of Energy and Energy Affairs

- His Worship Mayor of Chaguanas, Mr. Gopaul Boodhan

- President of the Chaguanas Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Mr. Richie Sookhai

- Mr. Dominic Rampersad, Acting President Phoenix Gas Processors Limited

- Directors of the Chaguanas Chamber of Commerce

- Fellow members of the Board of iGovTT and its executives present

- Members of the Media

- Distinguished Ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

It is my pleasure to address members of this Chamber on behalf of the Board of Directors of the National Information and Communication Technology Company Limited (iGovTT). The Chaguanas Chamber of Industry and Commerce is a vibrant representative of the interests of the Central Business Community and as a representative of the ICT sector, I look forward to sharing with you today our vision for how ICT can help make Chaguanas a better borough, and help you the Chaguanas business community to prosper and make a greater contribution to our national economy.

As the implementation agency for ICT of the Ministry of Science and Technology, iGovTT assists the Ministry in realising the objectives of the National ICT plan better known as smarTT. This comprehensive Plan outlines the strategies of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for creating:

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"A dynamic knowledge-based society, driven by the innovative use of ICTs to enhance the social, economic and cultural development of the people of Trinidad and Tobago".

In other words, a *smart society*. What is a smart society? It is one that promotes the use of Information and Communication technologies to

engage its citizens to develop social and intellectual capital, to make better use of hard infrastructure, reduce usage of environmental capital and support sustainable economic development.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) affects every facet of modern life, from simple social interactions to sophisticated business processes.   ICT will play a pivotal role in the thrust for economic growth and diversification of the economy. Indeed, more service-driven, knowledge-based industries will be achieved through the development and integration of ICT.

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The current National ICT Plan focuses on creating opportunities in the ICT Sector and improving the quality of life of our citizens.

In this regard, there has been a multi-pronged approach as ICT infrastructure and legislative frameworks have been developed and implemented. In addition to this, physical ICT Access Centres have been planned and to date, four of the 42 planned have been opened, and several more will be completed in the next few months in underserved communities across the country. Not only do these Access Centres provide free access to computers and high speed internet, they empower citizens of all age groups, including the youth and the elderly,

through ICT focused training programmes that help them utilise technology to connect with friends and family, enhance learning and knowledge acquisition and be more productive in business and every day life.

This can be taken one step further if we explore the opportunity to begin creating smart cities.

Over the past few years, the definition of "Smart Cities" has evolved to mean many things to many people. Yet, one thing remains constant: part of being "smart" is utilizing information and communications technology (ICT) and the Internet to address urban challenges.

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The number of urban residents is growing by nearly 60 million every year. In addition, more than 60 percent of the world's population will be living in cities by 2050. As a result, people occupying just 2 percent of the world's land will consume about three-quarters of its resources. Moreover, more than 100 cities of 1 million people will be built in the next 10 years.

Today's cities face a variety of challenges, including job creation, economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social resilience.

Given these trends, understanding where we are in the evolution of the Internet is critical to future city-planning processes. And it is no different here in our own country.

Trinidad and Tobago's urban centres are also expanding. A prime example is the Borough of Chaguanas which over recent years has seen exponential growth in terms of population, housing developments, business and governmental agencies. Indeed, just a couple of weeks ago iGovTT and its ttconnect division relocated its Central operations to a brand new facility at #9 Southern Main Road, just opposite Massy Stores at Mid-Centre Mall. We have been warmly welcomed at our new home and feel very proud to be a part of the Chaguanas community.

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As microcosms of the Internet of Everything, better known as IoE, communities stand to benefit the most from connecting people, process, data, and things. Communities are developing IoE-related projects, platforms, and implementations.

Importantly, the IoE ambitions and scope are designed to respond to the need for real-time, context-specific information intelligence and analytics to address specific local imperatives.

There is a theory that in terms of phases or eras, many organizations are currently experiencing the Internet of Things (IoT), the networked connection of physical objects. As things add capabilities like context awareness, increased processing power, and energy independence, and as more people and new types of information are connected, IoT becomes an Internet of everything — a network of networks where billions or even trillions of connections create unprecedented opportunities as well as new risks.

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Opportunities are likely to cover things such as improved building management, more efficient traffic flow, clever ways to provision basic services (for example, "street lighting as a service," which can be managed and consumed to reflect more accurately changing patterns of need and demand), water or waste management, and policing----All areas in which I'm sure the Chaguanas business community would welcome improvements.

At a national level, areas that can benefit from ICT include road infrastructure, aided by better monitoring of pavement and bridge

conditions utilising intelligent sensors and new "big data" computing capabilities, highway traffic management, healthcare, education, and agriculture.

Smart Cities are undoubtedly the "in thing". But apart from being cool, they are an expectation in today's knowledge based society. As the Government of Trinidad and Tobago drives the efforts to develop a smart society, iGovTT will do its part to transform our urban and rural centres and optimise the use of ICT for the collective benefit of all citizens.

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Thank you ladies and gentlemen.