



**BUILDING BRIDGES**  
NATIONAL SERVICES WEEK | NOVEMBER 3-7, 2014

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**Media Release**

Imported raw materials used for Carnival Costumes toxic

On November 5, at the Trinidad Hilton, Mahindra Satram-Maharaj, President of the Mas Transformation Secretariat / Director of Trinidad and Tobago Coalition of Services Industries (TTCSI) revealed during his opening comments at TTCSI's "I AM" Secondary School Green Building prize-giving Competition, that according to a recent baseline study undertaken by the Mas Transformation Secretariat, more than 750,000 pounds of waste are generated from Carnival costuming.

Satram-Maharaj, who is also President of the National Carnival Development Foundation (NCDF), challenged the Honourable Ramona Ramdial, Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources, "In spite of all that the Ministry is doing to encourage a green environment, the creative industries have never been included in any of the Ministry's green initiatives"

He added, "31 out of 32 imported raw materials used in the manufacturing of Carnival costuming are highly toxic and detrimental to the environment."

"We must work together to rectify this huge anomaly in the Carnival costuming sector and more importantly for our citizens and the generations to come." He noted that the Carnival costuming carbon footprint has been huge, but more will be revealed when the Secretariat makes the report public. Minister Ramdial responded to Satram-Maharaj's call saying, the Ministry has agreed to look into the matter, as it is an issue that requires attention.

Ramdial congratulated Debe High School, winners of the "I AM" competition and all the 31 schools that participated. She said once again she was highly impressed with the submissions and believes this time the students may have out done themselves. All winners received \$5000 cash prize from the Ministry, Ipads courtesy the United States Embassy and the awards from TTCSI.

She said, "The government is also seeking to establish a legislative framework for the generation of electricity from renewable energy resources and that the Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs, has commenced work on the establishment of the regional



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renewable energy Centre, following a recent MOU between Trinidad and Tobago and the United States.

Side bar

### Winners

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Debe High School

2<sup>nd</sup> Place -Swaha Hindu College (Sangre Grande)

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Tabaquite Secondary School

Most Original Presentation-Hillview College

Best Drawing-Belmont Secondary

Most Enthusiastic- Barrackpore West Secondary

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