

MPA Hosts Public Service Excellence Awards

Ten public servants were honoured by The Ministry of Public Administration at the first Public Service Excellence Awards Ceremony on Friday 23rd June at the Hyatt Trinidad in Port of Spain. In commemoration of United Nations Public Service Day, Senator the Honourable Allyson West, Minister of Public Administration (MPA) presented each winner with a trophy, as well as a weekend stay and dinner for two at a luxury hotel gift certificate.

The awardees included the MPA's Aneera Maharaj, Public Management Analyst in the Modernisation and Service Improvement Division (MSID). Ms Maharaj came to the MPA as a returning scholar in 2012 via the Associate Professional programme. Selected by her peers, she has been praised for embracing "challenges with a calm demeanour and is willing to go the extra mile to ensure the job is completed to a high standard". She is celebrated for being a team player and an effective leader and mentor, "willingly sharing her knowledge and newly found techniques with others to ensure the satisfactory delivery of services".

The inaugural Symposium and Awards Ceremony, was one of several events celebrating the value and virtue of public service that was held during the week including a Symposium, Expo and Career Fair, as well as Customer Service Excellence and Ethics Sensitisation Session by the Public Service Academy (PSA).

Awardees and Citations

All ten public servants were celebrated during the MPA's Public Service Week 2023 Symposium and Service Excellence Awards including:

Nilliufa Susan Ali has been employed at the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government since 2012. She is courteous and helpful to all clients whether internal or external and is impartial in delivering service. Ms. Ali is an Accounting Executive II and her professional approach to her responsibilities is characterised by her extensive knowledge and up-to-date understanding of Public Sector Accounting processes.

Mr. Regan Asgarali is an Attorney at Law attached to the Intellectual Property Office of Trinidad and Tobago as the Controller of Intellectual Property, Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs. He has been with the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs for the past 14 years. Mr. Asgarali is honoured for his leadership ability and successful implementation of transformative projects within the ambit of the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs. He is presently concentrating on flagship projects such as administering the National Internet Protocol (IP) Training Centre and the IP Libra, and is working towards implementation of a technological innovation support centre and a paperless IP office.

Denny Dipchansingh has over 29 years' experience in forest governance, Wildlife Conservation, Wildlife Management, protected areas management, planning and research at the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries. He has made outstanding contributions to the preservation and protection of the country's forests, wildlife and natural resources. He embraces challenges in an ever-changing environment, as well as facilitates stakeholders and citizens in high standards. His knowledge of the legislation and procedures towards natural resource management are highly commendable. He has demonstrated exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment towards policy development, digitisation and sustainable practices throughout the Forestry Division, thereby creating an overall positive image of the Ministry.

At the Ministry of National Security, Dookeran Kissoon is an Acting Human Resource Officer II assigned to the Forensic Science Centre. Lauded by colleagues for being extremely meticulous and proactive. She goes beyond the duties of the office to complete tasks and assist others. Mrs. Kissoon is described as an employee who adds value to all divisions and is indeed an asset to the Ministry of National Security.

Aneera Maharaj came to the Ministry of Public Administration as a returning scholar in 2012 via the Associate Professional. She currently works as a Public Management Analyst in the Modernisation and Service Improvement Division. Her fellow workmates see her as someone that embraces challenges with a calm demeanor and is willing to go the extra mile to ensure the job is completed to a high standard. She is considered by her fellow colleagues to be a team player and an effective leader and mentor.

At the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services Ms. Farisha Mohammed is a Family Service Social Worker assigned to the National Family Services Division. She has been employed with the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services for the past eight years. Her personal motto, by which she lives, is to "be the adult you needed as a child," which has served as her motivation to transform families through building resilience and empowering children with a strong sense of self-worth. Ms. Mohammed is being honoured for her hard work and dedication.

At the Office of the Prime Minister, Tobago (Absent) Barry Nelson is an Accountant II at Central Administrative Services, Tobago (CAST). Over the years, Mr. Nelson has built a solid reputation as the consummate professional with an unparalleled drive to meet and exceed customer expectations. Mr. Nelson is distinguished by his friendly and courteous demeanour, his team spirit, his extensive knowledge of the systems and processes of the Sub-Treasury Unit and his overall enthusiasm for using his knowledge in the service of others. Mr. Nelson is recommended not only as an invaluable member of the CAST team but also a worthy ambassador of the organisation's core values.

With over 30 years of Public Service experience under her belt, Sharlene Pedro-Baksh began working at the Ministry of Digital Transformation in June 2022 as an Auditor I, and has always displayed dedication, professionalism and integrity in her job. Having been recently promoted to Auditor II, Ms. Pedro- Baksh has proven to be beyond valuable to the Ministry as she shares her knowledge and expertise with peers, and ensures that the Ministry of Digital Transformation abides by all financial regulations and standards.

At the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development Precious Reyes is a Senior Relationship Officer assigned to the Housing Programme Facilitation and Implementation Unit. Ms. Reyes is honoured for her ability to maintain composure under pressure. She is considered to be an expert at dealing with irate customers who are accessing the Home Improvement Grants. Ms. Reyes is being recognized for her ability to be calm, firm, and customer-oriented when engaging her clients.

At the Tobago House of Assembly (Absent) Daphne Turner is an Accountant I at the Division of Health, Wellness and Social Protection. She has been described as diligent, honest, hardworking and reliable by colleagues. Ms. Turner is dependable and is often the last to leave

the Unit on a daily basis. She is dedicated to all tasks at hand and goes the extra mile to ensure that salaries are paid on time. The Tobago House of Assembly salutes Ms. Turner for her Excellence.

The Ministry of Public Administration proactively partners with stakeholders to continuously develop the Trinidad and Tobago Public Service by strengthening the workforce, providing safe and comfortable accommodation solutions and enabling digital services that work.

Learn more at www.mpa.gov.tt