



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 1st July 2016

Highlights from NCPD's Annual General Meeting

National Centre for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Thursday 30th June 2016 at the San Fernando City Hall Auditorium. Dr. Ralph Henry, Chairman of the Heritage and Stabilisation Fund, was the feature speaker for the event. The theme for this year's AGM was '*Creating opportunities for the NGO Sector in challenging times.*'

Dr. Henry appealed to NGOs to not view the 'non' in nongovernmental organisation and non-profit as a negative or to mean that they are '*less than something*'. He said that NGOs and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are mobilizers of resources and can mobilize their resources efficiently, to ensure that they have resources for future use.

He advised that NGOs and CSOs '*view themselves as something positive contributing to the upliftment of people; contributing to satisfying certain needs, that in the case of the Centre, if it didn't exist, are we sure that there would have been something else that would have been providing for those needs?*' He congratulated NCPD for their work and noted '*very importantly, you are actually doing it far more efficiently than it can be done by the government.*'

Dr. Henry reiterated that society needs NGOs and CBOs to ensure that the needs for the marginalised population including Persons with Disabilities are met.

Reports presented included the Chairman's Review, Chief Executive Officer's Report and the Independent Auditor's Report.

Mr. Hayden Lovell was honoured for his dedicated contribution to NCPD by serving on the Board of Directors for the past ten (10) consecutive years. He was however, statute barred from continuing to serve on the Board. Ms. Sheree Welch was elected to the Board.

The new Board of Directors for the period 2016-2017 is comprised of Ms. Shereen Baksh, Chairperson, Dr. Natalie Dick, Vice Chairperson Mr. Lex Lovell, Secretary, Ms. Sheree Welch, Treasurer, Ms. Natalie Haye, Director, Mr. Gregory Christopher, Director, Mr. Subert Gilbert, Director, Mrs. Dolcie Awong, Director, Mrs. Janice Koylass Abraham, Director and Dr. Beverly Beckles, CEO.

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ABOUT NCPD

NCPD is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) which promotes equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities through training, information, research and consultative services. For more information on the National Centre for Persons with Disabilities, please visit our website, www.ncpdt.org, or contact us by telephone at 652-4880 or via email at ncpd1@hotmail.com.

For more information you may contact Ms. Lisa Bholai, Research and Communications Officer at 652-4880, via email at ncpd.rco@gmail.com or visit our website www.ncpdt.org



Photo 1: NCPD Board of Directors (left to right) Natalie Haye, Director, Sheree Welch, Treasurer, Subert Gilbert, Director, Beverly Beckles, CEO, Shereen Baksh, Chairperson, Lex Lovell, Secretary, Dr. Natalie Dick, Vice Chairperson, Janice Koylass Abraham, Director, Gregory Christopher, Director. (Absent: Mrs. Dolcie Awong, Director)



Photo 2: Dr. Ralph Henry delivering the Feature Address

For more information you may contact Ms. Lisa Bholai, Research and Communications Officer at 652-4880, via email at ncpd.rco@gmail.com or visit our website www.ncpdt.org