



EMPLOYERS' CONSULTATIVE ASSOCIATION OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

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PRESS RELEASE

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ECA Labour Day Message 2015

"T&T CAN REBUILD BY RETURNING TO MORAL VALUES"

The Employers' Consultative Association (ECA) of Trinidad and Tobago wishes to extend warm greetings to the Labour Movement and by extension our nation, on the occasion of Labour Day. As a social partner that is cognisant of the serious issues and challenges we face as a nation, this year, we have decided to move away from the traditional commentary on the Labour/Management relationship and its attendant issues and challenges and speak to the absolute need for all of our institutions and every member of society to return to "**moral and spiritual values**". The platform is burning! As a people, we possess a plethora of assets and accomplishments for which to be thankful. Are we going to sit idly by and allow the platform to burn? We boast of our resilience; but where has the discipline and more importantly, the tolerance gone? Tolerance for what is different, acceptance towards the otherness; and, what about respect for each other?

The time has come for all of us, leaders of institutions, civil society and all those who hold leadership positions in our beloved nation and specifically those who possess the ability to influence positive change in behaviours to make a commitment to:

- Rebuild the confidence and trust in our institutions;
- Instil the values of honesty, integrity, trust and respect;
- Work together to discover or invent a path that will resolve the social tensions that have been created;
- Broaden the perspectives and views of each other's interests about the future;
- Work together to create a shared vision that is in the national interest.

One may say that what the ECA is seeking to influence is unrealistic but ultimately, most of us have to live in this country that our forefathers laboured long, hard and tirelessly to build. Turning our backs on that legacy would redound in a failure to leave a legacy for our children, our grandchildren and those yet unborn. We therefore see this call to action as an obligation.



As we join the Labour Movement in the celebration of Labour Day, let us use it as a point of inflexion so as to influence and bring about the change in behaviours of members of our society in general that has become an absolute necessity.

In borrowing a line from one of our calypsonians when he pleaded in song, **“we just can’t go on this way, please, deliver us today”**, it is our hope that every member of our beloved nation would heed this call to action to begin to rebuild a nation and a society of which we can feel justly proud.

Happy Labour Day!

About the Employers Consultative Association (ECA)

The ECA is a not-for-profit organisation that provides quality representation as the leading national voice in public and legislative debates on Industrial Relations-related issues affecting the Employer community.

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