

ADDRESS BY  
DR. BEVERLY BECKLES  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES  
ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE  
2016 JB FERNANDES AWARD FOR  
NGO EXCELLENCE  
HYATT REGENCY TRINIDAD  
TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016



Ladies & Gentlemen,

Good morning,

It is indeed an honour and with a sense of pride and humility that I accept this prestigious award on behalf of National Centre for Persons with Disabilities commonly referred to as NCPD.

NCPD truly appreciates the acknowledgment of the work that we have done with our community of persons with disabilities (PWDs) over the past fifty one (51) years. This has been done based on the establishment of a solid organizational structure, programmes, services and a cadre of dedicated and committed professionals and support staff who have all contributed to the organization's success.

Like all other NGOs and Civil Society Organizations, we face challenges in our delivery of quality service to our target population. But in the face of challenges we have been innovative in establishing and developing partnerships and collaborations in order to sustain and advance our work for persons with disabilities. It is this partnership initiative that connected us in 2011 with the JB Fernandes Memorial Trust I to start our research activities completing a ten year tracer study on our graduates and to track the effectiveness of our vocational rehabilitation training programmes. A bi-annual tracer study has been implemented and is ongoing. Our work requires a level of patience and perseverance. We have demonstrated both attributes which today we recognised as the acknowledgement of winning the 2016 JB Fernandes Award for NGO Excellence.

This award provides recognition and fulfilment for the work of the organization. Winning this award will most certainly inspire and motivate the employees and volunteers in their continued struggle to deliver quality services to persons with disabilities. While today we graciously accept this award, it also signals hope and encouragement to the NGO sector that their work is recognized.

On behalf of the NCPD Family, I would like to thank the JB Fernandes Memorial Trust II for selecting NCPD for this prestigious award.

In closing, I want to thank the JB Fernandes Memorial Trust for recognising the need to raise the bar in the level of service given by this sector with the introduction of this annual Award. We know that in this economic climate, the demand on the NGO sector will be even greater as resources become scarcer, and we stand willing to partner and collaborate with any stakeholder, as we work toward achieving an inclusive society for all.

I thank you!