



NCPD PROGRESSION

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Celebrating 57 years of NCPD

We are proud to announce that we have crossed another milestone in the history of our Centre. On the 5th of December, 2021 NCPD completed 57 years of continued services to persons with disabilities. We take this occasion to thank each of you for being an earnest part of NCPD.

History of NCPD

In 1964 NCPD was known as a Rehabilitation Centre that was established in the San Fernando General Hospital orthopaedic ward to provide services for persons with disabilities who had been recovered from treatment at the hospital so they could have an independent life. Some of the services that the institution would have offered were skills training, career advice, and employment

searches depending on the needs of such persons. In 1994 the Rehabilitation Centre was then renamed to National Centre for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) that was available to all persons with different types of disabilities.

The Centre continued to make strides as in 2013 they were accredited by the United Nations Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It was also registered as a Civil Society of the Organization of American States that same year. Notably, on June 25th 2015 NCPD was pleased to note that the government of Trinidad and Tobago had ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Centre's work in advocacy was instrumental

in the development of national policies on disability in seven countries in the English-speaking Caribbean.

Our Vision

A country in which every PWD enjoys equal access to the rights, privileges and opportunities afforded to all citizens.

Our Mission

To be the leading organization that is renowned for educating and training PWDs to contribute to a disability inclusive society.

Timeline of NCPD's History

1964

The Centre is formally established on December 5, 1964 as a branch of the Trinidad and Tobago Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled. The Government provides lands at 7-21 New Street, San Fernando for the construction of a Rehabilitation Centre and playing field while the ILO provides technical support

1980

San Fernando Rotary Club undertakes an evaluation exercise and "adopts" the Centre as a special three-year project

1965 - 1983

A sheltered environment providing informal training in garment construction, photography, printing, bookbinding and woodwork exists. Physiotherapy is offered as a service to individuals of the Centre but is discontinued in the early Eighties.

1982

Beverly Beckles is hired as manager and the following year, the Centre begins a process of institutional reorganization

Timeline of NCPD's History

1984

The Centre is legally constituted as an autonomous body under the Companies Ordinance Chapter 31 No. 1 (Limited by Guarantee) on May 10, 1984 and continues with passage of the new Companies Act of Trinidad and Tobago 1995

1991

The expansion and upgraded facilities create opportunities for the enrollment of 60 persons, a vocational assessment unit, the first in Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean, structured programmes certified by the Ministry of Education's National Examination Council, and a light manufacturing unit.

1987

The Centre begins the approach to obtain funding from the Inter-American Development Bank. The agreement is signed on October 4, 1989. The loan is in the sum of US \$500,000. A technical cooperation grant was also made in the sum of US \$138,000.

1994

A name change from San Fernando Rehabilitation Centre to the National Centre or the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities is registered to convey the national focus of the organization as well as its target population

1995 - 2005

The Centre has an enrollment of about 150 trainees, with physical, visual, developmental and learning disabilities, and hearing and speech impairments who are between the ages of 15 to 45 years (entrance age is later lowered to 14). The Centre's trainees or clients are referred from special schools, community and social workers, medical practitioners and other social service agencies. Trainees are exposed to an expanded vocational training and rehabilitation programme

2011

The first-of-its-kind IDB loan of UD \$500,000 which was granted in 1989 is written off by the IDB in the amount of TT \$2,081,688.

2013

On July 17, 2013 the Centre is accredited by the United Nations Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Centre is also approved as a registered civil society organization to the Organization of American States on November 21, 2013. Thus, the Centre is able to participate in mutual exchanges of information with OAS member states and participate in relevant meetings.

Introducing NCPD's Picture Frame

The Christmas season is finally here! This month, NCPD would like to showcase our Picture Frame which would make a perfect gift for your loved ones and friends. This beautiful picture frame can be purchased for the price of \$112.50, as it is made out of teak and contains the dimensions 6¼" x 11". Additionally, to add a personal touch for that special someone, personalized engravings can be done at an additional cost of \$25.00.

Notably, NCPD focuses on advocating the vocational and rehabilitation service provided for Persons with Disabilities. Thus, your purchase or contribution can make a difference, while supporting the capabilities and contributions of Persons with Disabilities to society.



Here's what to know about International Day of Persons with Disabilities

International Day of Persons with Disabilities is celebrated on December 3rd of each year with the aim of promoting the empowerment of persons with disabilities and bringing awareness to the challenges faced in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life. Notably, this year's theme is "Leadership and participation of persons with disabilities toward an inclusive, accessible, and sustainable post-COVID-19 world".

How have persons with disabilities been affected by COVID-19?

According to the United Nations, persons with disabilities face challenges in terms of exclusion as they are less likely to access education, health care, employment and community participation. Consequently, the current COVID-19 crisis further adds to the pre-existing inequalities listed above. Looking at the health care of persons with disabilities, they are more susceptible to the impact of poor services or the inaccessibility to these services. Unfortunately, this comes at a time where they are more at risk of contracting the virus due to having underlying conditions.

The challenges listed above emphasises the need for disability inclusion which according to the United Nations would "result in a COVID-19 response and recovery that better serves everyone, more fully suppressing the virus, as well as building back better. It will provide for more agile systems capable of responding to complex situations, reaching the furthest behind first."

How to participate in the International Day of Persons with Disabilities?

- Volunteering at centres for persons with disabilities. Examples of some organizations are: NCPD, Cause An Effect, Autistic Society of Trinidad and Tobago, Down Syndrome Family Network of Trinidad and Tobago, and the Voice of Deaf and Hard of Hearing of Trinidad and Tobago (VODHHTT)
- Donating to organizations such as those listed above.
- Spreading awareness about persons with disabilities and the challenges faced.



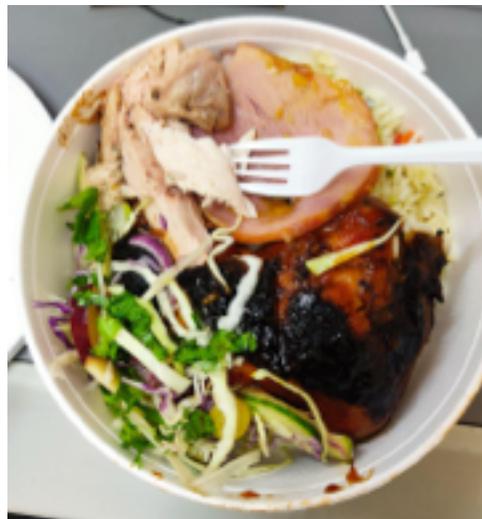
Continued Recognition of Basic Communication in Sign Language

NCPD continues to advocate for a disability-inclusive society by continuing to educate persons on the basic sign language used in everyday interactions.

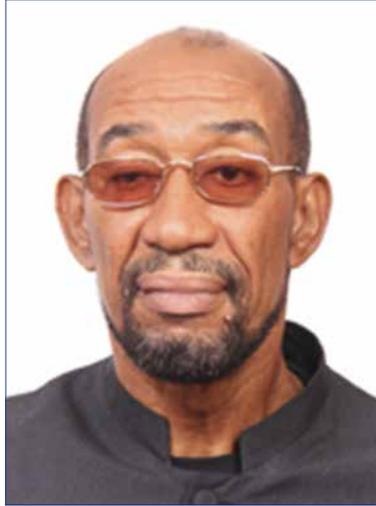


NCPD's Christmas Que: BBQ with a Christmas Flair

We are happy to inform our readers that NCPD's BBQ fundraiser held on December 3rd was a success. Moreover, we take this occasion to thank everyone who came out and supported our fundraiser.



Message from the Chief Executive Officer

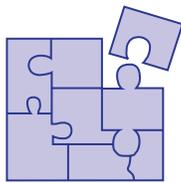


As the year 2021 comes to an end, I am thankful for NCPD's voluntary Board of Directors, all our kind and generous benefactors, members of staff, trainees, apprentices, volunteers, parents and others who have contributed significantly to taking NCPD forward.

Despite the difficulties caused by the COVID 19 virus, NCPD continued to stride this year as we have successfully adapted to COVID 19 protocols and transitioned our students onto online classes. Moreover, the Centre was able to host fundraiser events such as our "Tasty Take Away BBQ", "Delight Box", and "Christmas Que." Notably, NCPD recently achieved a huge milestone as the Centre celebrated its 57th Anniversary on December 5th, 2021.

As we plan for the future, NCPD will continue its mandate to provide high-quality skills training that will meet industry requirements and produce responsible, respectful and well-rounded Citizens of Trinidad and Tobago. I wish to extend Season's Greetings and best wishes to everyone for the New Year, 2022.

In closing, I encourage everyone to continue along this journey of excellence in keeping with our mission to improve the quality of life of all Persons with Disabilities. It has been my honour and privilege to serve you as Chief Executive Officer. Once again, I say "Thank you" to everyone who played a major role in contributing to the overall success of our great Organisation, NCPD.



**NATIONAL CENTRE
FOR PERSONS
WITH DISABILITIES**

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