



MEDIA RELEASE

“IF IT IS NOT YOURS, DO NOT TAKE IT...”

The Integrity Commission of Trinidad and Tobago in partnership with the Tobago House of Assembly and Ministry of Education hosted the Championship of the first **NATIONWIDE SPEECH BAND COMPETITION** at the Magdalena Grand Beach and Golf Resort on Wednesday 25, September 2019. This initiative created a platform for the students of Trinidad and Tobago using the rich culture of the Speech Band of Tobago as a vehicle, to promote integrity and honesty throughout the country.

Justice Melville Baird, Chairman of the Integrity Commission of Trinidad and Tobago delivered the feature address on the theme, **“Capture a mind; Change a life; Impact a community”**. Directing comments to the students in the ballroom and by extension the students throughout Trinidad and Tobago, Justice Baird reminded them of the reigning soca monarch Mr. Killa’s “Run wid it.” He continued, “Now I have a little slogan for you, a little saying, it is the exact opposite to the soca tune “Run with it”. The saying is: *“If it is not yours, do not take it.”*

The Chairman considered that this saying could be recited by the Early Childhood Care and Education, and Primary school children every morning before classes and they can continue as they progress through the years.

He urged the students to keep this saying ever present in their minds so that as adults in the workplace, this could be a guide to honest behaviour. He said, “every Trinidadian and Tobagonian must regard combatting corruption, as a personal obligation. Our combat can begin at street level and progress upwards. He then described some of the methods of that combat; he stated, “we can refuse to pay bribes to public officials, and be more conscious of our responsibilities on the road.” The list, he said, was not exhaustive.

Remarks were brought by Assemblyman Marisha Osmond, Assistant Secretary, Division of Education, Innovation and Energy on behalf of Mr. Kelvin Charles, Honourable Chief Secretary, and Ms. Cherryl-Ann Solomon, Administrator.

The winners of the Nationwide Speech Band Championships in each category were:

- Plymouth Bethesda ECCE,
- Whim Anglican Primary School and;
- Signal Hill Secondary School.
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For their outstanding performances, each winner received a challenge trophy, school supplies voucher and certificates of participation.

For more images and videos please visit the Commission’s Facebook/Instagram page @integritycommissiontt.