

Closing Remarks
By
Mrs. Kelly Bute-Seaton,
Executive Director
Bankers Association of Trinidad and Tobago
On the Occasion of
Clash of the Debate Titans – Final
Thursday 15 November

- Mr. Hadyn Gittens, Chief Executive Officer of the Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission
- Ms. Lystra Lucillio, Deputy CEO of the TT Securities and Exchange Commission
- Ms. Michelle Persad, Chief Executive Officer of the Trinidad and Tobago Stock Exchange Limited
- Members of the Judging Panel
- Debate team finalists
- Lecturers, students, Ladies and gentlemen

Good evening

It is a pleasure for me to say a few words at this the close of the Clash of the Debate Titans.

It is evident this has been an immense event just by the number of participating institutions and the span and intensity of debate themes.

The Bankers Association of Trinidad and Tobago is happy to support an initiative such as this, which contributes to the development of young people who will shape the future of Trinidad and Tobago.

As a key sponsor and partner in this undertaking, this occasion not only marks for us the continuance of our financial education programme, but has afforded us the opportunity to be part of interventions that will help our young adults prepare for the leadership roles they will play in the future. It's the vision and hope in that

future that makes all the activities over the past couple of weeks and the culmination of today's event all the more worthwhile, relevant, and important.

It was amazing for me to witness the level of knowledge, analysis and passion that was demonstrated in today's debate session. The teams were able to collectively harness their creative and intellectual resources to present an informed discussion on cryptoassets and make arguments that are compelling and sound.

Resounding congratulations are therefore in order to today's finalists and to ALL the students who took part at every stage of the competition.

I want to say this: the competition may have been tough and the debate issues complex, but what you have learnt is invaluable. Be it the mental strength to go the extra mile, the determination to excel or independent and out of the box thought – I have no doubt that these are skills and values that will put you in good stead in whatever your area of endeavour.

Remember this, whether you have copped the winning title or not, you are all Champions here today, you made it this far, your exhibited bravery and great skill, all great learnings and all to be proud of. I encourage you to remain focused and to consistently strive to improve yourself. Having said that, our adjudicators have had a hard time deciding the finalists and winners. I don't envy them.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me take the opportunity to acknowledge the many supporters behind our debaters - family members, debate coaches, peers and friends some of whom may be here today. As sponsors, we may have the resources to provide the winning prizes, but we cannot replace the role of mentors, educators and collegial support who offer encouragement and constructive opinion.

I also want to say thank you to the adjudicators who contributed time and effort to the process. I am sure that it must have been a difficult undertaking....to choose a winner...to choose the team that displayed the most wit and command of the facts..with grace and elegance..and a touch of humour, always good.

Let me also thank the S.E.C. for its stewardship of the Clash of the Debate Titans and for shining the spotlight on some truly sharp and brilliant minds.

We eagerly await this evening's results, and now it is only left for me, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Bankers Association to offer continued good wishes to all.