



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Celebrating 45 years of Diplomatic Relations between Australia and Trinidad and Tobago

Port-of-Spain, Trinidad – 24 July 2019 – Australian High Commissioner John Pilbeam and Trinidad and Tobago’s Foreign and CARICOM Affairs Minister Dennis Moses exchanged congratulatory messages at a reception last Thursday to celebrate the 45th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between their countries. The event was held at the Australian High Commissioner’s residence in Moka, Maraval. Among the invited guests were Trinidad and Tobago’s Prime Minister Keith Rowley, Chief Justice Ivor Archie, Attorney General Faris Al Rawi and Port of Spain Mayor Joel Martinez.

Addressing the occasion, High Commissioner Pilbeam said though Australia had established formal diplomatic relations with Trinidad and Tobago in 1974, official ties date as far back as 1951 when an Australian Trade Commissioner was based in South Quay in Port of Spain.

Since then, both countries have strengthened political, economic and people-to-people ties. “The more links you look for between Trinidad and Tobago and Australia, the more you find. They turn up in surprising places. And they’re all intriguing, positive stories of spontaneous friendship and easy understanding,” remarked High Commissioner Pilbeam.

In 2009, Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd visited Port of Spain for the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting while more recently, in May 2018, Prime Minister Rowley visited Australia to purchase quality fast-ferries and patrol boats that will service the sea bridge between Trinidad and Tobago.

In the last few years, Australia has shared its experience and expertise with Trinidad and Tobago in tackling common challenges such as road safety, coral reef preservation, improving cocoa cultivation and countering violent extremism.

Minister Moses noted in his address that Australia stood in support of Trinidad and Tobago in 1962, co-sponsoring a resolution at the General Assembly for the country's entry into the United Nations. He said diplomatic relations between both countries had since "expanded into diverse areas of cooperation, ranging from road safety to youth affairs, from climate change to education".

Minister Moses, in his closing remarks, said there was great potential for growth and closer ties, and Trinidad and Tobago remained committed to advancing its bilateral relationship with Australia.

The evening culminated with a riveting performance by reigning Panorama Champions *BP Renegades*.



High Commissioner John Pilbeam and Foreign and CARICOM Affairs Minister Dennis Moses raise a toast to celebrate 45 years of diplomatic relations between Australia and Trinidad and Tobago



High Commissioner John Pilbeam and his spouse Ms Yvonne Webber greet Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley and Mrs Sharon Rowley



Bp Renegades in action at the reception