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Port of Spain City Corporation hosts annual brunch for the receiving of the proclamation for International Women's Day.

Friday 10th March, 2023 – Port of Spain, Trinidad

The Port of Spain City Council, in collaboration with East Port of Spain Development Company Limited (EPOS), hosted its annual brunch for the reading and receiving of the proclamation for International Women's Day on Wednesday 8th March - a day devoted to celebrating the achievements of women around the world. Held at the Sound Forge in Port of Spain, this year's event was dedicated to Ms. Hazel Brown, the Trinbagonian award-winning women's and consumer rights activist. Brown, who was also the co-founder of the Network of NGO's for the Advancement of Women, passed away on September 22, 2022. Councillor Malouia Bourne facilitated this year's event as the Master of Ceremonies, while the Feature Address was presented by Her Excellency Bengu Yigituden, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey to Trinidad and Tobago.

Opening the event's proceedings, His Worship the Mayor of Port of Spain, Alderman Joel Martinez described the late Hazel Brown as a true champion for women's rights in the Capital City. He also spoke of the importance of the globally-recognized day which aims to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

"We are here to celebrate International Women's Day and honor the theme this year which calls on us to embrace equity. As local government practitioners, we are no strangers to the idea of equity," Mayor Martinez indicated in his remarks. "We serve the community closely and interact with citizens daily. International Women's Day challenges us all to recognize that this principle of equity applies if we are to meet the needs of our women and girls of our country and in the world," he explained.

Alderman Asha Permanand, impassioned in her remarks about the meaning and importance of this year's global theme 'Embrace Equity' explained that, "more than 100 years ago, that first (women's) march was about ending harmful workplace conditions, equal rights, equal pay, and an end to exploitation."

However, she added those aims are still relevant today. "International Women's day is a once-a-year chance to remind governments, businesses, and everyone else watching that women aren't going anywhere, and we're prepared to take action to achieve our human rights because progress hasn't been equal," said Alderman Permanand.



Jacque Burgess, Coordinator of the Network of NGO's of Trinidad and Tobago for the Advancement of Women was also in attendance to receive this year's proclamation. CEO (Ag.) of the Port of Spain Corporation, Esther O'Brien; Deputy Mayor of Port-of-Spain Hillan Morean also gave greetings on behalf of Port of Spain City Corporation and Council. Also in attendance were His Excellency Arif Keshani, High Commissioner of Canada; Miss Universe 1998, Wendy Fitzwilliam and Deborah Thomas-Austin, Managing Director of EPOS.

In addition to the official proclamation, the joint International Women's Day event was interspersed by live entertainment and ended with a hearty Vote of Thanks given by Natasha Nunez, daughter of Hazel Brown and Alderman Wendell Stephen.

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