



**REMARKS**

by  
Dr. Wm. Warren Smith  
President  
Caribbean Development Bank

at the

Commission of the  
Tuschen New Housing Scheme Nursery School

Tuschen Nursery School Guyana

May 27, 2014

Salutations

Hon. Samuel Hinds, Prime Minister of Guyana

Dr. the Hon. Ashni Singh, Minister of Finance and  
Governor of the Caribbean Development Bank

Hon. Priya Manickchand, Minister of Education

Members of the Board of Directors of CDB

Mr. Julius Faerber, Regional Chairman

Staff and Students

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Afternoon:

Thank you for inviting me to share in the Opening Ceremony for the Tuschen New Housing Scheme Nursery School would be an understatement. We, at the CDB, have made the education of our people a priority for our institution.

All of the evidence suggests that, in the Caribbean, no other investment provides enduring benefit for our people like education. It is the principal vehicle through which the cycle of generational poverty is most effectively broken.

On behalf of the management and staff of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), I extend our warmest congratulations to the Government and people of this community for their vision to construct this nursery school here in Tuschen.

CDB is a firm supporter of projects that uplift our people. We like to associate our brand with projects, like this one, which promise recurring benefits to the community, for years to come. You now have a modern and well-appointed school. You also have an opportunity to mould the minds of the future leaders of this society.

We are extremely pleased to be part of the regional thrust to set both our girls and our boys on the path to realising their full potential by exposing them to early childhood education. We want to support more education projects, like this, in the future.

Over the past few years, the Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF) has enabled CDB to support several community-focused projects in Guyana. In addition to the Tuschen Nursery School project, BNTF resources have been used to finance three other nursery schools - the Diamond New Housing Scheme Nursery School; the Beterverwagting Nursery School; and the Ithaca Nursery School.

These projects were all designed to CARICOM Early Childhood Education Standards.

Additionally, we have supported, in recent times, work at the Port Mourant market, Diamond New Housing Scheme water supply, and the Lethem Hospital.

BNTF's primary objective is to help poor, vulnerable communities improve their access to basic public services. To this end, it supports the provision of social and economic infrastructure, and the development of skills training to enhance employability and community management.

In keeping with this objective, we plan to continue to build our partnership with the Government and people of Guyana. We will be supporting projects that are financially sound and which hold out the promise of adding social value.

Architecturally, the Tuschen Nursery School is the first of its kind to be built in Guyana. It has been constructed to the specifications set out in the Regional Early Childhood Development and Ministry of Education non-academic handbook and norms. It has been built specifically for nursery-aged children, and represents a major improvement over the previous school arrangements, where children of nursery school age shared facilities with older children.

This new nursery school houses nine classrooms, fully furnished with indoor and outdoor assets; an open multi-purpose space with carpets for playing; parents' waiting area; a staffroom; food preparation area; administration area; water storage facilities; sanitary facilities and storage space.

The school is a model for the future, providing a stimulating and safe environment.

Your challenge, Head Teacher Khemraj, and the challenge of all who work and study here, is to ensure that these facilities are fully utilised and regularly maintained.

The entire CDB family extends best wishes to you all for continued success.

Thank you