

Message to the nation in commemoration of Eid-ul-Fitr from Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Kamla Persad-Bissessar

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Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar

On August 31st, we join with our national community to celebrate the 49th year of our Independence, and commemorate an auspicious event in which we signalled to the global village our resolve and determination to chart our own course, both for ourselves and our posterity.

On this day, we also join with our Muslim brothers and sisters in celebrating Eid-ul-Fitr, an event that represents the culmination of a month of abstinence and prayer. In so doing, we recognise the expressed resolve of our Muslim brothers and sisters to not only submit to the command of God Almighty, but also to undertake the necessary physical and moral sacrifices that promises to yield great reward in this life and the hereafter.

We must examine the past to understand the present and plan for the future. The celebration of Eid should be one in which the Muslim community, much like the entire nation at this time of Independence, reflect on the past sacrifices, and in so doing savour those benefits that we enjoy today as a nation, even as we seek to inculcate those models of behaviour that would help us to be a stronger and more resilient nation in the future.

While we do this we can appreciate, as our Muslim brothers and sisters have no doubt experienced in this past month, the compassion for others who may be less fortunate than us, and the joys of extending a helping hand to those in need, simply for the sake of loving for our brothers and sisters what we love for ourselves.

As we struggle in our quest for individual and national development, let us resolve to never forget those who are less fortunate than ourselves – those victims of crime, poverty and neglect, so that we can stand together as one people, just as our Muslim brothers and sisters do in the mosques throughout our land, and know that the sacrifices that have passed us create a present which we can be proud of, and holds the promise of a better future for ourselves and our children.

On behalf of my family and I, and on behalf of the Peoples' Partnership Government, I wish the Muslim community a very Joyous Eid Mubarak.

-End-

August 30, 2011