

MINISTRY OF TOURISM

MEDIA RELEASE

AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE PREPARATION OF A MASTER PLAN FOR THE SUGAR HERITAGE VILLAGE AND MUSEUM PROJECT BRECHIN CASTLE, COUVA

The Ministry of Tourism has been pursuing the development of a Sugar Heritage Village and Museum, on approximately 560 acres of State Lands formerly utilised for operations of the sugar factory at Brechin Castle, Couva. The project is being developed in collaboration with the Ministry of National Diversity and Social Integration, and the Ministry of Sport, and seeks to preserve and showcase the legacy of the sugar industry, following on its closure several years ago. This would involve the rehabilitation and re-purposing of the many deteriorating buildings and amenities on the compound, as well as the establishment of new facilities and spaces, so as to engender a cultural, heritage, educational and recreational space that would take pride of place among our country's **tourism assets**. The project would include the following components:

- A Sugar Museum
- An Artefacts Exhibit
- A state-of-the art sports Club and Sporting Facilities
- An Archive and Documentation Centre
- Recreational Ponds
- A replica of a model Sugar Factory
- A Visitor Information Centre
- An Amphitheatre
- A hotel/Guesthouse
- Recreational activities
- A Heritage Village
- A Botanic Garden

It is intended that the space would represent a living monument to the legacy of all those who laboured on the country's sugar estates and sugar factories, or who were in any way affiliated with the happenings of the sugar industry. The project promises to be one of tremendous pride to all our people, and an attractive addition to the mix of our tourism product. Given the very broad scope of the project, there would be need for a significant amount of collaboration with other Ministries and Agencies, and for strong partnering with the business community and funding agencies, both local and international, so as to roll out a product that would be commercially-operated, self-sustaining and successful.

On February 27th 2014, the Ministry of Tourism, through the executing agency for the project, Caroni (1975) Limited entered into an engagement with Pricewaterhouse Coopers for the development of a **Master Plan** for the project. This Plan is expected to be completed by the end of July 2014 and would be developed in consultation with the widest cross-section of stakeholders. It will provide a blueprint with a phased implementation plan for the project concept. The Ministry of Tourism is very excited about this project and we invite you to embark upon this most exciting journey with us. Further details can be gleaned from the project website www.sugarheritagevillage.com



From Left to Right: Serena Joseph- Harris Legal Officer Ministry of Tourism, CEO Caroni 1975 Ltd Deosaran Jagroo, Mr. The Honourable Chandresh Sharma Minister of Tourism and Representative from Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC)