



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
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Attention: HEAD OF NEWS and EDITOR IN CHIEF

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Contact: Public Information and Communications Unit
622-1625 Ext. 4013

**PRIME MINISTER EXTENDS WARM CONGRATULATIONS TO BARONESS
PATRICIA SCOTLAND**

Prime Minister Dr the Honourable Keith Rowley and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago extend warm congratulations to Baroness Patricia Scotland on her selection as the sixth Commonwealth Secretary-General - the first woman to hold this post.

The selection of the new Secretary-General took place in a closed session during the 24th biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), currently being held in Malta. The process was overseen by the CHOGM Chair and the Prime Minister of Malta Joseph Muscat.

The Dominican candidate and a former UK attorney general defeated Antigua & Barbuda's nominee, Sir Ronald Sanders, and Botswana's Mmasekogo Masire-Mwamba. This is a great victory for the Caribbean as the last Caribbean National to serve as a Commonwealth Secretary-General was Sir Shridath "Sonny" Ramphal QC who served for fifteen years, from 1975 to 1990.

As Baroness Patricia Scotland embarks on her tenure as the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Trinidad and Tobago wishes her all the best in promoting and protecting the Commonwealth's values and principles as set out in the Commonwealth Charter. The Prime Minister also looks forward to working with Baroness Scotland along with the other Heads of Government.

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