



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

**MESSAGE TO THE NATION
FROM DR THE HONOURABLE KEITH ROWLEY
PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
ON THE OCCASION OF DIVALI 2015**

Today, on behalf of the people and Government of Trinidad and Tobago, I extend warm greetings to our Hindu community, as the Nation celebrates the inspiring and joyous occasion of Divali, the festival of lights, which symbolises the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness.

While many of us are aware that Divali honours the Goddess Lakshmi Devi, who embodies the noble qualities of wisdom, compassion and grace and who showers her devotees with prosperity, beauty and success; we may not fully appreciate that Sri Lakshmi also represents liberation, thoughtfulness and righteousness.

Therefore the celebration of Divali is not merely focused on the attainment of material possessions but also on spiritual enlightenment. It is a time during which our Hindu brothers and sisters remind us all of the importance of spiritual and emotional balance during our physical lives here on Earth.

One of the most powerful symbols of Divali – the lighted deya –invites us to turn away from the darkness of negativity, ignorance and intolerance and instead seek positive and uplifting influences in our lives, to become living examples of peace, justice and unity.

Divali asks each of us to engage in mindful introspection...to look deep within ourselves to our innate light, strength and goodness as we continue to bravely surmount life's challenges.

Such profound reflection should encourage us not only to take greater responsibility for our own lives; but also to look beyond self to the greater good of family, community and nation.

As we all celebrate Divali this year, it is my wish for you that Mother Lakshmi blesses your families, your communities and our nation with love, peace and joy.

May the spirit of Divali reside in each of us as we continue to grow and develop as a nation of responsible, productive and caring citizens, focused on creating a bright future which we may all equally share.

Shubh Divali

Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley
Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago