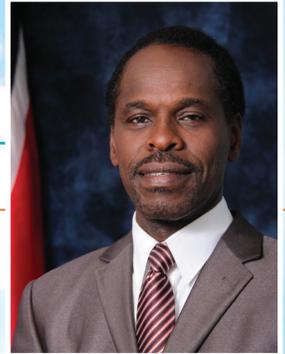




Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Public Utilities

**MESSAGE BY THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
THE HONOURABLE FITZGERALD HINDS,
ON THE OCCASION OF**

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL DAY 2017



For the past 56 years, World Meteorological Day has been celebrated on the 23rd of March of each of those years. Observed by National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in over 185 countries, it commemorates the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on the 23rd of March 1950 and the essential contributions that these agencies make to the safety and wellbeing of society.

This year's theme, "Understanding Clouds", was chosen by the WMO to highlight the enormous importance and impact of clouds on weather systems, climate and the water cycle.

National Meteorological and Hydrological Services work on a 24-hour basis to provide vital weather and climate information worldwide. Given that clouds signal the type of weather that is developing, the observation of clouds is an essential aspect of weather analysis and forecasting. As such, clouds can provide information that protects life and property, while assisting communities in becoming more resilient to weather phenomenon – all core functions of the Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service (TTMS).

In recognition of World Meteorological Day, the TTMS will embark on a series of outreach activities at various venues across Trinidad and Tobago. These events, which form part of its ongoing Public Education and Public Outreach Programme, are geared towards helping us better understand clouds and other meteorological phenomena, thus ensuring that decision-makers, communities and individuals are better prepared for weather and climate events. I urge citizens to participate in this initiative as we seek to build a weather-ready and resilient nation.

Meanwhile, the TTMS continues to develop its suite of weather-information services. Later this year, bio - meteorological (health) products like the UV Index and the Feels Like Index will be incorporated into its public weather services, along with probability forecasting. In addition, the Met. Service will continue to work with the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) to establish and implement the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP), an international standard format for emergency alerting and public warning.

The Ministry of Public Utilities will continue to provide governance and support for this essential service as it strives to provide timely, user-oriented weather and climate information for the safeguarding of life, livelihood and property and the improvement of Trinidad and Tobago's resilience to weather and climate extremes. I therefore encourage us all to actively engage with the climate information and services available at the Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service and to use them in a way that contributes to the continued development of Trinidad and Tobago.

Happy World Meteorological Day!