



THE UNIVERSITY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Letters to the University Community - L4

Professor SARIM AL-ZUBAIDY

President, The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT)

Greetings for 2018

January 5, 2018



To the Members of the UTT Community:

Another year has begun and I want to thank all of our valuable employees who work hard for our growth and development. I wish that the New Year 2018 will be one of enhanced performances with your continued dedication and effort. The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) ended 2017 with communication from the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT) that UTT was awarded Continuing Institutional Accreditation for the maximum period of seven (7) years from December 2017 to December 2024. Congratulations to all students and staff of UTT on this milestone achievement.

The University has entered 2018 under the umbrella of the financial constraints of 2017 and must therefore continue to look closely at the efficiency and effectiveness of all of its operations. The restructuring exercise which began in 2017 continues apace and it is anticipated that by the end of January 2018, the first phase of this exercise will be completed.

In the recent past, UTT has been besieged by media coverage as to the financial standing of the University and most recently concerning funds being transferred for the continued construction of UTT Tamana Campus. Upon completion, the UTT Tamana Campus will be a state-of-the-art facility. In 2016, there were outstanding payments affiliated with the UTT Tamana Campus in excess of TT\$170M. TT\$300M+ was transferred from unspent savings to fund the continued construction of UTT Tamana Campus which started in 2007. In 2014, UTT commenced construction of the UTT Aviation Campus at Camden and subsequently, priority was shifted from the Tamana facility to the completion of the Aviation Campus.

It should also be pointed out that the allocation of funds was not done by UTT without following the diligent process of application and approval of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT). UTT Tamana Campus will serve as a centre for the creation of human capital with the skill sets that ably support the future economic development of Trinidad and Tobago.

One of the University's goals has been, and still is, to ensure uncompromised educational experience for our students who will always be our number one priority. Now more than ever, it is imperative that UTT continues to make the necessary improvements which will allow the institution to continue to focus on classroom instruction, as well as, research and publications. Let us make every effort to ensure that UTT emerges as a high-ranked, globally recognised, self-sustainable University with greatly improved student experience.

As UTT forges ahead to a stronger and more sustainable University in 2018, I continue to ask for your support and patience.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Al-Zubaidy'.

Professor SARIM AL-ZUBAIDY
