



From left Huggins Credit Union Vice President, Christopher Alexander, CEO, Tobago Tourism Agency Ltd, Louis Lewis, Plumeria Inn manager, Belinda Charles and Huggins Credit Union President, Robin Samlalsingh prepare to cut the ribbon to officially open Plumeria Inn for business.

# Plumeria Inn is



On December 3rd, 2020 Plumeria Inn, a newly refurbished 15-room Inn located at Lot #22 Signal Hill Connector Road, Signal Hill, Scarborough, Tobago, opened its doors for business. The occasion was celebrated through a short ceremony, attended by Huggins Credit Union President, Robin Samlalsingh, Huggins Credit Union Vice President, Christopher Alexander, CEO, Tobago Tourism Agency Ltd, Louis Lewis, Plumeria Inn manager, Belinda Charles and other specially invited guest.



Huggins Credit Union President, Robin Samlalsingh

Robin Samalsingh brought greetings from Huggins Credit Union, Board of Directors. He described Plumeria Inn as the ‘Crown Jewel’ of Huggins Credit Union and a gift for the world to enjoy. He mentioned as we thrived to transform a dream into a reality, the journey to date had its joys, disappointments, challenges and pitfalls and labeled the experienced as a journey of ‘mixed emotions’.

CEO of the Tobago Tourism Agency, Louis Lewis said he wanted to encourage this initiative since it was a step in a positive direction and was impressed by Huggins Credit Union, a financial institution, extending its reach into the tourism industry and felt it said a lot about the potential of the industry. Mr. Lewis said “The tourism sector is poised for growth, notwithstanding the fact that we are in a pandemic.” He felt the Trinidad market presented an opportunity, along with the members of Huggins Credit Union for Plumeria Inn success now, since people will be looking for somewhere different to have a vacation and escape the lockdown conditions.



CEO, Tobago Tourism Agency Ltd, Louis Lewis

According to Mr. Lewis, “the prospects and possibilities of attracting visitors are fairly ripe.” He said, “Tourism

is very dynamic and one way in which you can augment your offering is to be bold and to establish relationships with agencies and associations that can augment your offerings.” He touched on the need to move away from just doing social media and importance of digitising the business model by offering online payment platform as an option.

Vice President of Huggins Credit Union and Chairman of the Plumeria Inn committee, Christopher Alexander took the opportunity to remind the invited guest and individuals on Zoom that ‘Adversity breeds opportunity’ and made mentioned to a line from one of David Rudder songs “Out of a muddy pond, ten thousand flowers bloom.”

He said, “The current pandemic impact is brutal on the hospitality and aviation industries and holds the view that the twin island Republic of Trinidad and Tobago offers those with vision, fortitude and support many unique opportunities to raise above the level of self pity and the misplaced sense of entitlement that leads us to believe the Government owes us everything.”



Huggins Credit Union Vice President, Christopher Alexander

Mr. Alexander mentioned the opening of Plumeria Inn puts Huggins Credit Union in a unique position occupied by a few of their credit union competitors who ventured into this industry. According to the Plumeria Inn chairman, this year the impact of the global pandemic caused businesses and individuals to rethink and re-imagine their future. He expressed the shared opinion that, “There will be no return to normal.” He added, “The new normal will reset to our norms based on the lessons learned.”

In concluding his speech, Mr. Alexander expressed his pleasure with the manager and her team and thanked all that contributed to the dream becoming a reality. He then declared, “Plumeria Inn is opened for business.”

The master of ceremony, Mr. Neil Parsanalal thanked all the speakers and invited Mr. Samlalsingh, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Lewis and Ms Charles to be part of the ribbon cutting to formally open Plumeria Inn.