

**PVC and Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat  
Media Launch of UWI 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Stamp  
Office of the Campus Principal, UWI St Augustine  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2008  
10.00 a.m.**

**PROTOCOL**

- University Registrar, Mr C.W. Iton
- Mrs. Jacqueline Gantaume-Farrell, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Utilities
- Representatives from the Trinidad and Tobago Postal Corporation, our collaborative partners in this special initiative,
- Deputy Principal, Professor Rhoda Reddock,
- Campus Registrar, Mr Jeremy Callaghan,
- Campus Bursar, Mrs Lylla Bada
- Campus Librarian, Designate Ms. Jennifer Joseph
- Esteemed colleagues,
- Honoured Guests,
- Members of the media,
- Ladies and gentlemen,

**Good Morning.**

Let me begin by once again welcoming all of you to this launch of our 60th Anniversary Commemorative Stamp Collection. I am always very happy to start the day with an event like this because, for me, events like this set the present challenges and opportunities of our University against the backdrop of six decades of accomplishment and achievement. For us, here at the St Augustine campus of The University of the West Indies, it is very encouraging to be able to look back into the history of the institution and to see how previous generations of administrators navigated through the complexities that confronted their advance. By celebrating their victories, we are in fact expressing hope in our own ability to overcome our own challenges.

And so, the point of today's launch is not to hanker back to the glory days of the past. Rather, by looking back in this way, we are in fact looking squarely forward and readying ourselves to overcome our present and future challenges. I say this with confidence, because I have had the extremely good fortune of taking up my appointment as St Augustine Campus Principal in the same year that the regional University marks its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations. Therefore, throughout this year, we have had many opportunities to bring the experience and wisdom of sixty years to the present challenges facing our administration. And so, on a more personal note, I would go as far as to say that, for me, it has been a great pleasure to have my own professional journey intersect in this way with the developmental path of this great institution.

Today's launch intersects with the University's overall Strategic Plan to have a more visible role in national life, one that extends beyond the relationship

with host governments to include relations with the private sector, NGOs and communities. In reality, there are so many ways in which our Faculty and Staff continue to contribute to the formation and administration of public policy, the provision of expert advice and even to corporate governance, yet this is not well publicized and the UWI derives little credit for those outputs. So that, in a sense, the point of this Stamp Collection is simply to increase public awareness and to allow a broader national audience to become aware of the output of scholarship and research work at the University and its potential impact on specific communities and national populations.

This is part of a deliberate and considered effort to strengthen our national engagement by publicising our achievements. Let me say, **in closing**, that throughout 2008, as we celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we hope to increase UWI's impact on national policy making, to enhance support for UWI within the national communities, and to bring the University into a more favourable view by key stakeholders and at all levels of society. This effort is being led by our Vice Chancellor, Prof. E. Nigel Harris, who has been working very hard to coordinate UWI staff, students and alumni to organise signature UWI 60th Anniversary events across. I don't want to say too much more, because I feel that my time is up, but I **do** want to mention two points:

- Firstly, just to alert the members of the media that, as the culmination of the yearlong celebrations, a gala black-tie dinner will be hosted by UWI St. Augustine Campus on December 12th, 2008. You can listen out for more details on that.

- Secondly, just to make it clear that all proceeds from all UWI 60th Anniversary initiatives are being channelled into a special UWI Regional Endowment Fund, which will facilitate infrastructural projects across the region. Our focus continues to be the development of the Caribbean region.

**Thank you.**