

**Chairman's Address at Official Opening of Workshop on
CURRICULUM DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT IN COMPETENCE-BASED
EDUCATION AND TRAINING, Savannah Hotel, Hastings , Ch.Ch.**

Executive Director, Ms Wendy McClean, Manager, Technical Services, TVET Council,
Mrs, Key Skeete, Facilitator, Participants, Media, Ladies and Gentlemen

As Chairperson of the BAC, I have once again been afforded the pleasure of opening another workshop on its behalf. The previous exercises which we have spearheaded have been of a tremendous benefit to the participants and we at the BAC want to continue the trend today of empowering through information and exposure.

This particular workshop aims at strengthening institutional capacity and the quality of education and training provisions in Barbados. The BAC is well aware that teachers cannot be prepared for the endless challenges which arise in their educational environment in a single training session. One-shot training, no matter how effective and successful, is not adequate. We had assured our providers at a workshop conducted last May that other training opportunities in Curriculum Design and Development would be provided by the BAC. At that time, we concentrated more on the traditional curriculum design and development training. However, the workshop being birthed today, focuses moreso on enriching the competence-based teaching-learning environment and by extension, enriching the quality of our nation's human capital;

An individual's knowledge and skills in a wide range of occupational areas, requires technical and professional competencies and specific occupational skills, these can be developed through quality technical and vocational education and training. The training over the next three days will focus on areas dealing with:

- competence-Based Education and Training
- occupational Standards
- designing and developing competence-based curricula and
- assessing competence.

Technical and vocational education refers to "those aspects of the educational process involving, in addition to general education, the study of technologies and related sciences, and the acquisition of practical skills, attitudes, understanding and knowledge

relating to occupations in various sectors of economic and social life". As defined by UNESCO and ILO.

Quality technical and vocational education and training can help to develop the technical and professional competencies, as well as occupational skills of individuals because of its focus on the individual's acquisition of practical skills, knowledge and attitudes required for optimal performance in a particular occupation. The end result will be a workforce that is more flexible and responsive to the needs of the local labour market, while being able to effectively compete in the global economy.

To produce a globally competitive post-secondary or tertiary educational system in Barbados, the provision of high quality educational programmes of study and courses that can effectively compete with others, based on international standards, must be a focal point for the Barbados Accreditation Council.

Additionally, as a result of the liberalisation of education and training services globally and the free movement of skills and labour through mechanisms such as the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, the BAC has observed an increasing demand for quality education, training and recognised qualifications. I am sure that you have also noticed the resultant increase in competition between local and foreign providers of educational services for the same student groups.

The Barbados Accreditation Council believes that teaching is one of the most demanding and pivotal professions in the world. Teachers and trainers now and in the future, will continue to be critical in facilitating learning and making it more cogent. We are all aware that our teachers are windows into the future, as they shape the minds, behaviours and actions of our youth.

As economic, social and technological changes gather momentum, people everywhere need to continuously develop their knowledge and skills, so that they can live and work meaningfully in today's society.

Education and training contribute to an individual's personal development, increase her/his productivity, and facilitate the participation of all persons in economic and social life. It follows that education and training have the capacity to help individuals to escape poverty by providing them with the skills and knowledge to raise their performance level and generate income. Investing in education and training is therefore

an investment in the future, as knowledge and skills are the engine of economic growth and social development.

As a consequence ladies and gentlemen, the BAC is committed to the continuous improvement of the quality of teaching and learning at the post-secondary level here in Barbados. Providing all individuals with learning opportunities throughout their lives is an ambitious undertaking but a requirement all the same. The BAC has thus decided to collaborate with the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council - the body with primary responsibility for technical and vocational education and training in Barbados - to host this workshop. We are committed to working with you, our providers, and the TVET Council to do all that is necessary to ensure the achievement of this worthwhile goal.

At the end of the workshop you the participants will be able to:

- understand the fundamental differences between traditional and competence-based education;
- interpret occupational standards and better understand how they can be used in developing the curriculum. You will also be equipped with the tools to develop and implement a training curriculum using occupational standards; and
- develop appropriate performance-based tasks to match performance objectives.

This workshop in its design, therefore, helps us to address an area of teaching and learning that is crucial to the quality of the educational provision and by extension, the integrity and credibility of the post-secondary education and training sector in this country. We hope that you will envisage it as enhancing your competitiveness.

Of course, to ensure the highest quality training for all participants and through our collaborative efforts with the TVET Council, we have engaged the services of someone with significant experience and expertise in the area of curriculum design and development. Mrs. Kay Skeete has worked in tertiary education and training since 1985. Her aptitude for curriculum development in vocational education was nurtured locally and internationally. She is involved in consultancy both locally and regionally and has written and presented papers at educational conferences at the regional and international level. The Council assures you that Mrs. Skeete is well equipped and capable of performing the task ahead.

In closing, we look forward to a lively exchange of ideas and discussions over the next three days and I strongly urge you to become actively engaged in the various workshop activities. Also take time to get to know your colleagues and find out the areas in which

they are involved. I am sure mutually beneficial collaborations will bring long term benefits to you.

I extend a warm welcome to you and I wish you a most successful workshop.