


# Girls in ICT 2022

*Theme: Access and Safety*



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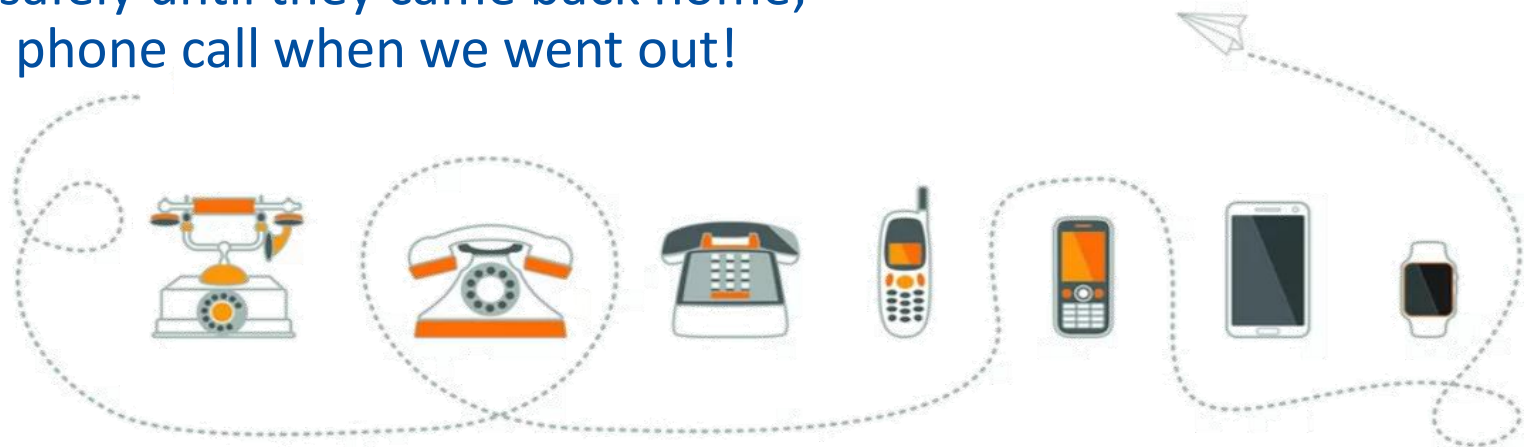


Once upon a time

# In the Beginning...



- With over 50 years in the Public Service, and 70 years in Trinidad and Tobago, I have seen the evolution of ICT and the role it plays in our day-to-day lives.
- Many of you may be watching today's proceedings from a device that can fit in your hand but in the not so recent past:
  - The only way to communicate across island was via postal mail;
  - There used to be an operator who had to connect your call to another person on island;
  - People would leave home to visit friends and relatives and there was no way to know if the person reached safely until they came back home;
  - We had to line up to make a phone call when we went out!



# In the Beginning...



- Transformation is an inherent part of our reality
- Vision of the National ICT Plan – *fastforward* –(2003):

*“Trinidad and Tobago is in a prominent position in the global information society through real and lasting improvements in social, economic and cultural development caused by deployment and usage of information and communication technology.”*



# As one of the first Girls in ICT...



I worked with some of the best and brightest minds in the country to:

- Liberalise our Telecommunications Sector
- Bring in broadband technologies

This led to us being able to:

- Create digital learning, digital banking, and digital business platforms
- Increase mobile penetration and smart device possession
- Create the infrastructure to make appointments online (passports, driver's licenses, companies' registry)
- Order food, groceries, pharmaceuticals online and have it delivered to our door
- Keep in contact with our friends and family as we move through the country, the region, even the world



# It's Not Uncommon



## The Women Who Changed The Tech World

Ada  
Lovelace



Grace  
Hopper



Hedy  
Lamarr



Annie  
Easley



Mary  
Wilkes



Adele  
Goldberg



Radia  
Perlman



Katherine  
Johnson



Karen  
Sparck-Jones



Elizabeth  
Feinler



# Now as a Grandma in ICT...



... **Watch** with wonderous fascination, the rapid evolution of the Sector

... **Pay** close attention to how the GoRTT has always tried to empower women, myself included, and given trust in us in levels of great decision-making authority

... **Have** continued on the journey of digital transformation with the Ministry of Digital Transformation (MDT)

... **Creating** the opportunities for all of our young, and old to work, partner and collaborate with the MDT in our revolution of digital transformation of our Government, Economy, and Society

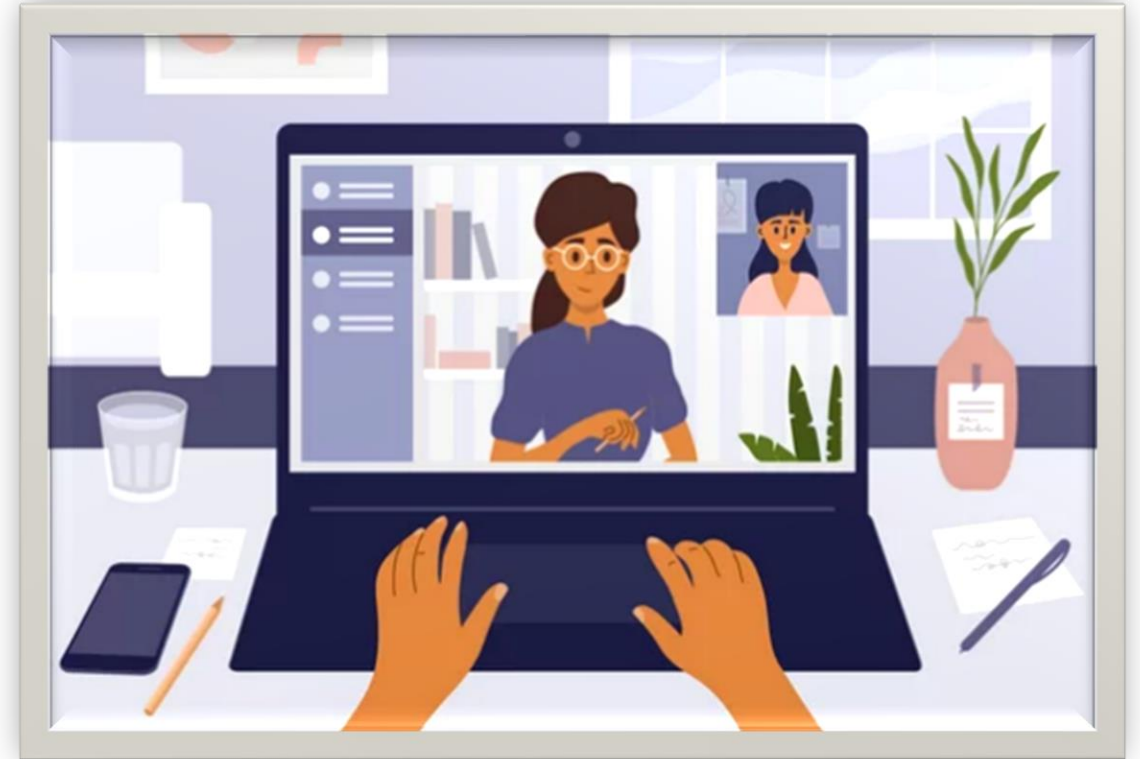
... **Observe** with pride how our MDT girls in ICT have been flourishing in meaningful ways so much so that I want you to hear from just A FEW of them...



# Key Takeaways



1. Your role in ICT is not limited to your chosen educational path;
2. Your role in ICT is not limited to your gender – break the stigma!;
3. ICT is a mechanism through which we can elevate the lives of our citizens;
4. Technology is evolving so there is always opportunity to innovate.





# Call to Action



- All of us will be in ICT as it is the way of the world!

## *What do you see as your role?*

1. Create a space for everyone in the digital society .
2. Be a facilitator of change – be an ally for the technology averse to help them understand its value.
3. Create opportunities for economic development that is driven by digital technologies.



# Questions and Answers



# Thank You!

