



## Speeches, talks keep PM busy at OAS meet

Story Created: Apr 2, 2011 at 10:38 PM ECT

PRIME Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, who yesterday left for Washington DC to attend the 2011 Organisation of American States (OAS) Hemispheric Summit, will today begin her visit with a dinner to be held under the patronage of US President Barack Obama and Mrs Obama. Works Minister Jack Warner will act as PM until her return on Thursday.

Persad-Bissessar is being accompanied on the four-day trip by Foreign Affairs Minister, Dr Surujrattan Rambachan, Arts and Multiculturalism Minister, Winston Peters and Gender Affairs Minister, Senator Mary King.

Persad-Bissessar will today attend the Spring Gala Dinner at the Kennedy Centre for the Performing Arts in Washington.

Tomorrow she delivers the keynote address at the Summit on Women's Leadership and Rights at the Hall of the Americas.

This address pertains to the theme of the Hemispheric Forum and will focus on the challenges of the democratic system to women's equality in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Persad-Bissessar will also today deliver an address at the Washington-based Brookings Institute, a non-profit public policy organisation that aims to strengthen democracy in the United States and secure a more open, safe, prosperous and cooperative international system.

The Brookings Institute is ranked as the world's top 'think tank' and is considered a trusted source of independent research. Persad-Bissessar's address at this forum will focus on the strengthening and diversification of Trinidad and Tobago's economy and on social development issues.

She will also today engage in talks with OAS Secretary-General, Jose Miguel Insulza and Assistant Secretary-General, Albert Ramdin.

On Tuesday, the PM will again deliver a keynote address, this time at the Public Sector Leaders Forum hosted by Microsoft, which aims to bring together Government leaders and influential thinkers to discuss the role of Information Technology on an economic and educational level.

She will also, on Tuesday, hold meetings with a number of senior executives at Microsoft to discuss T&T's eConnect and Learn Programme (eCAL) the programme responsible for administering the distribution and use of the laptops given to Secondary Assessment Examination (SEA) pupils — the Caribbean Investment Forum to be held in Port of Spain in June 2011 and Microsoft's agreement with the Commonwealth Secretariat and Commonwealth of Learning to improve access to, and use of, information and communication technologies to improve education in schools in the Caribbean.

Persad-Bissessar will also hold meetings with members of the T&T community at Howard University.

On Wednesday, Persad-Bissessar will hold discussions with UNDP Administrator, Helen Clarke, which will centre on the Women Leaders as Agents of Change programme, Constitutional reform, UNDP's Research on Citizen Security in the Caribbean and the UN system and UNDP's activities in T&T.

She will also that day hold discussions on security matters with Stuart Levey, the US Treasury undersecretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence.

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