
MEDIA RELEASE

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We ARE in a crisis of crime

The Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce is of the opinion that the Minister of National Security in his leadership role must acknowledge that we are not just in a difficult situation but in fact in a crisis regarding crime - and we do not have the luxury of time to deal with it.

The T&T Chamber is of the view that the present state of affairs dictates that urgent action must be taken now. The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS), despite its best efforts, does not by itself have the capacity to deal with the crime situation, and other arms of the security infrastructure must be mobilised. We also recognise the Minister's reference to technology in the fight against crime and endorse this.

We fully support a strong presence of security forces in high-crime areas. Our law provides for the Defence Force "To cooperate with and assist the civil power in maintaining law and order," and "To assist the civil authorities in times of crisis or disaster." We thank the Minister for his commitment with regard to upping the collaborations between the police and the defence force and trust that this is part of an overall plan and strategy that is being executed on a sustained basis.

Apart from the above, in our opinion, the following options need to be considered to deal with the situation:

- Circulate in the media, at every police station and all police posts, a list of the most wanted criminals in the country. This should be published in the media.
- A crime crisis team reviewing the deployment of all the Security resources of the country.
- Seek assistance from our CARICOM partners who have successfully reduced similar crime upsurges in their own country.
- International experts who can be brought in to support the Crime fighting effort.
- To maintain public confidence, communication to the public about crime fighting strategies (taking into consideration national security confidence) with metrics that show their success/failure.
- Ensuring that the technology infrastructure, (drones, air support, digital fingerprinting, the CCTV cameras with facial recognition, the National operations Centre etc) are fully operational and utilised.

While we are in a difficult situation it can be solved if the government accepts the reality, and makes solving/reducing crime a priority. The Minister has signalled his intention to meet with chambers of commerce and other stakeholders, and we look forward to a meeting as soon as

possible. The T&T Chamber remains committed to fully support and collaborate with all legitimate agencies in the fight against crime.

Saving our country from this spiraling crime is critical to our citizens and visitors wellbeing, and the preservation of our very way of life.

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FROM THE MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT