



**MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY**  
*Corporate Communications Unit*

**FEATURE ADDRESS**

**By**

**MRS. SIMONE THORNE-MORA  
DEPUTY PERMANENT SECRETARY  
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY**

**At**

**THE CITIZEN SECURITY PROGRAMME (CSP)  
ORIENTATION FOR THE POLICE YOUTH CLUB  
TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

**Place: Police Training Academy  
St. James**

**Date: Tuesday 29 December 2015**

**Time: 9:40 a.m.**

Salutations:

Ag. Commissioner of Police, Mr. Stephen Williams

Members of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service  
Executive

Programme Coordinator of the Citizen Security  
Programme, Mr. Gregory Sloane-Seale

Facilitators of the University of the West Indies

Representatives of Police Youth Clubs

Distinguished Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. It is with great pleasure, that I accept this opportunity on behalf of the Ministry of National Security, to address you at today's Orientation for the Police Youth Club Training and Development Programme.

I am sure most of you are familiar with the old adage, "If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day, but teach him to fish and you will feed him for a lifetime".

It is in this light that, as participants in the Police Youth Club Training and Development Programme, you are all embarking on special training that is geared to equip you with the set skills necessary to convert you into leaders, or in other words, to teach you and thereby others how to fish.

It is expected that the high standard of training you are about to receive, will be well utilized in the service of others and that you will pay it forward not only to the Youth Clubs you will lead but also to your communities, thereby allowing you to contribute positively to the collective growth of our nation.

Ladies and gentlemen, while our country's education and training programmes continue to improve the productivity of our labour force, we have recognized that too many of our young people are abandoning traditional values and attitudes in favour of deviant forms of behaviour. It is therefore no surprise that this Government's crime fighting strategy also places emphasis on the creation of alternative prospects for our youths.

Apart from the Citizen Security Programme, programmes such as the Trinidad and Tobago Cadet Force, the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Military Led Academic Training Programme (MILAT) all provide our youth with new opportunities for development, and includes exposure to vital academic and skills training.

We at the Ministry of National Security remain committed to engendering social transformation through community-focused programmes such as the Citizen Security Programme. Building the capacity of our communities is one sure way to promote true resilience to the economic and social factors which may directly impact the daily lives of our citizens.

Ladies and gentlemen, the benefits of an empowered community to the national landscape and our overall sense of security are immeasurable. To this end, we at the Ministry of National Security will continue to show support for community-level interventions employed by the CSP.

In fact, a study commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme in 2015 described the CSP approach as ideal for building trust in communities affected by widespread violence, effective in empowering community members, improving perception of safety, strengthening public safety infrastructure and reducing crime and violence.

These results however are reflective of the meaningful partnerships created through several agencies working in tandem, including the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service.

Research has found that community policing initiatives have contributed to reduction in fear and improved relationships between the Police and the communities they serve.

Police are critical gatekeepers between youth and the juvenile justice system. Negative interactions between police and youth influence the likelihood of arrest and decrease the likelihood that youth will seek help from the police in the future.

Moreover, when citizens view police as legitimate and trustworthy legal authorities, they are more likely to cooperate and obey the law.

One of the CSP's broad strategies is therefore to provide support to Police Youth Clubs (PYCs) to enable such clubs to execute police-led community projects, as well as to increase the scope and effectiveness of police engagement in community development.

Since 2007, the CSP has made grants up to \$50,000.00 available to Police Youth Clubs to deliver meaningful interventions to young people across the country. Music training, sport for development, academic enrichment and other viable projects have been implemented, which have had a positive impact on the lives of young people.

More recently, I understand that the CSP provided technical assistance to the St. James Police Youth Club to participate in the evidence-based Fight for Peace Programme which introduced boxing and martial arts to young people from St. James, Carenage and parts of Diego Martin.

Today's event is yet another notable show by the CSP to engage in a comprehensive capacity-building intervention that will see the leaders and members of 75 Police Youth Clubs in Trinidad and Tobago benefitting from intensive training in Youth Leadership and Management, Team Building, Proposal Writing, Project Management, Conflict Resolution, Anger Management, Financial Management, Counselling and Mediation. It is envisaged that on completion of the relevant training, PYC Leaders and their members will be equipped with the skills, knowledge and techniques to effectively lead, manage and operate Police Youth Clubs.

The Ministry of National Security, through the Citizen Security Programme, intends to continue its support to Police Youth Clubs over the next year.

It is this type of partnership that is critical in our efforts to address crime and violence. Indeed, the security, safety and well-being of this country should be a concern shared by all citizens. It is the hope of the Ministry of National Security and the Government as a whole that, if all law-abiding citizens work in concert, substantial results would be realized towards eliminating a lot of the criminal and rogue elements in this country.

I wish to commend the Citizen Security Programme for embarking on this initiative with the University of the West Indies. The Ministry of National Security certainly attests to a whole-of-Government and multi-sectorial approach to addressing our societal issues as well as creating new opportunities for growth and development.

Participants, the University of West Indies will offer a high level certification that will redound to the development of each of you individually, to the young people you serve and the nation as a whole. I therefore challenge you to use this training well and go forward to create safe spaces that foster, strengthen and enable young people to maximize their potential as law abiding, productive citizens.

I wish you all successful completion and meaningful implementation of your training.

Ladies and gentlemen, the benefits of this training programme in terms of youth and community development, improvement of national security and nation-building can only be encouraging. The Ministry of National Security certainly looks forward to many more successful ventures from the Citizen Security Programme.

Let me take the opportunity to wish all present a safe and prosperous New Year 2016.

I thank you.