



## **ADDRESS**

**By**

**MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY**

**MAJOR GENERAL (Ret'd)  
THE HONOURABLE EDMUND DILLON**

**ON THE OCCASION OF  
THE LAUNCH OF THE  
NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMME  
(NCPP)**

**DATE: Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2018**

**TIME: 10:00 a.m.**

**VENUE: Grand Ballroom, Hilton Trinidad and  
Conference Centre, St. Anns, Port of  
Spain**

Good morning all,

Today is indeed a **defining moment** for us in Trinidad and Tobago as we launch the **National Crime Prevention Programme (NCP)**, a **holistic approach** to crime fighting. A **community-driven** initiative to **PREVENT** crime.

As Minister of National Security, I am fully aware of the **challenges** we currently face as a **society** with respect to crime and its **impact** on us as a **people** and **nation**.

Ladies and gentlemen, **crime affects us all**. It **saddens** me deeply to hear of the **loss of lives**, increasingly through the **use of firearms** and **acts of violence**.

It is **evident however** that the **majority** of our citizens are **law-abiding** and **right-thinking** and it is a

**minority of criminals** spreading **fear** and **discord** in our **beloved country**. I therefore **reiterate the call** I made before: we must **unite in partnership** – **all law abiding citizens and residents, law enforcement and security agencies, and Government** – so that we can **reclaim** our beautiful country from those who are **bent on** and are **supportive of criminality and lawlessness**. The time has come for us to put all differences of opinion aside and work together as one cohesive unit to let the criminal elements among us know, they will never get the upper hand over us. We will **never surrender. Failure** is not an option.

While we seek to empower all communities across Trinidad and Tobago, the MNS will continue to implement measures geared at **strengthening the structures, capability and effectiveness** of the Agencies of National Security. This is being effected through focus on **Intelligence gathering, Deterrence,**

Improved **Detection, Prosecution and Rehabilitation**, as we pursue the fight against crime.

**Prediction:** Government has **operationalized** a new Intelligence Architecture to ensure that our security forces have **timely** and **accurate** information on **criminal activities**. Our national security agencies have adopted an **Integrated Intelligence-Led** National Security Model to **predict** the future activities of **criminal gangs, traffickers of narcotics, guns, ammunition and persons** as well and activities of **violent extremism and terrorist activities**.

Some of the agencies already being strengthened are the:

- Strategic Services Agency (SSA);
- Trinidad and Tobago Police Service's Special Branch,
- Terrorism Interdiction Unit and Organised Crime and Intelligence Unit (OCIU);

- Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force Intelligence Unit
- the Coast Surveillance Radar System
- Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service Intelligence Unit. Yes **Intell at Prisons**

**Deterrence:** Increased **posture** and **disposition** along our highways, in our inner cities, Police Mobile and foot patrols, Joint Police/Army patrols as well as marine and coastal patrols continue in areas across Trinidad and Tobago that serve as a **deterrent** to those who may be considering **nefarious activities**. Emphasis has also been placed on the use of **body cameras** by the police and mechanisms within prison facilities including **body scanners, jammers** and **grabbers**.

Recent strides in crime **detection** capabilities include:

- The increase in the manpower strength of Crime Scene Investigators;

- The appointment of a **DNA Custodian** to manage National Forensic DNA Databank as we progress towards the full **operationalization** of a DNA System in Trinidad and Tobago; **Regulations** passed by **Parliament** and **Gazetted**, **15,000 Bucal swabs** have already been procured. **Training** has started in DNA **sample collection** with **TTPS**, **TT Prison** and **RHAs**.
- **RFPs** have gone out for the **reengineering** of the **national CCTV** system as an effective **monitoring mechanisms** and a means of quickening the process of **evidence-gathering**.

### **Prosecution:**

Government's efforts continue in making the administration of justice increasingly effective and robust. **Dialogue** continues between the Ministry of the **Attorney General and Legal Affairs**, the Ministry of National Security, the **Judiciary** and the **Office of**

**the Director of Public Prosecutions** with a view to **concretizing** areas of cooperation.

### **Rehabilitation:**

Our concern at the Ministry of National Security is crime reduction; a reduction in the rate **recidivism** and ultimately in reducing the prison population. The Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service plays a significant role in this regard and has been pursuing a **shift from** a **retributive** system of **incarceration** to one that is **restorative** in nature. Many of the **success stories** in **offender management** is as a result of the Prison Service's collaboration with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs). VOM stands out for particular mention.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago recently partnered with the **Correctional Services** of the **Government of Canada** through a Memorandum of

Understanding which allows for the **sharing** of research and expertise in the area of Corrections. Another operational mechanism to come on-stream in the area of offender management include: the establishment of an Electronic Monitoring System (ankle bracelet system). Tender evaluation is in progress.

Ladies and gentlemen, **our critical need right now** is to **strengthen** our **multi-pronged approach** and **invest dedicated attention** to the other side of crime management in order to **increase citizen security**.

But in order to create the kind of country we ALL want -where we can ALL live our lives with a sense of safety and security and peace of mind- we **MUST** work together with common purpose. As expressed by Pundit Param Maraj (speaking following the vandalism of his Las Lomas Mandir), I too believe that political and cultural differences must be put aside as

it is vital that we unite wholeheartedly in the fight against criminal activity.

It is in this regard that the NCPP was conceptualized as an initiative which will encourage increased citizen action towards making our communities safer for all. This new initiative, will strongly impact crime prevention by engaging communities as strategic partners, to help reverse the elements which contribute to the challenges facing the citizenry in terms of fear of crime, criminality and social disorder across the country.

**Partnership** is currently the global approach to tackle transnational organized crime, with countries entering into agreements to better mobilize their intelligence and resources to effectively combat all forms of crime on an international scale. Trinidad and Tobago is no exception, having partnered with various

Governments throughout the world to improve our local capacity to treat with crime.

Ladies and gentlemen, this Government continues to partner at all levels to address crime, violence and criminality. In our manifesto which is now Government's policy we stated that we will adopt a Whole of Government approach in treating with crime. In this vein, the Ministry of National Security is engaging in a collaborative partnership with other Ministries, as well as public and private sector stakeholders, to execute the National Crime Prevention Programme nationwide. This is NOT a reactive measure demonstrating the physical and tactical force of our law enforcement agencies. Rather, it is a proactive measure to effectively address and remedy the social roots of crime, thereby eliminating the factors that drive crime.

The NCPP is anchored on Government's Vision 2030 National Development Strategy and the Ministry of National Security's Strategic Plan 2018-2023. The Programme will utilize existing resources by working in tandem with the services offered by other Government Ministries. It creates a credible platform to **operationalize** the State's Whole-of-Government strategic policy for **good governance** and **excellence in service delivery**. This initiative will be sustained in the long term, you will see the full results over time.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is Government's intention to implement this programme on a phased basis under the following leadership structure:

1. An Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee has been established and meets on a regular basis to provide strategic direction and guidance for the Programme.

2. The NCPP Secretariat to facilitate all activities necessary to implement and maintain the Programme.
3. Fifteen (15) Community Crime Prevention Councils representing the 14 Municipalities in Trinidad and the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) in Tobago. Councils will interface directly with their respective communities to determine their needs in order to respond appropriately.
4. Community Liaison Officers to mobilize communities through consultation and collaborative approaches with authorities within the various municipalities.

The Ministry of National Security have established a **strategic partnership** with key Ministries, namely:

- The Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government with respect for the roll out of the Programme in the various Municipalities.

- And the Ministry of Community Development Culture and the Arts in their drive to promote Sustainable Community Development.
- The Ministry of Social Development and Family Affairs with their presence in the Communities
- The Ministry of Education
- Public Utilities
- Sport and Youth Affairs
- Ministry of Health
- Office of the Prime Minister and
- Other Ministries

Initially, the NCPP will be implemented in two municipalities, namely **Borough of Chaguanas** and **Diego Martin Corporation**, as well as the Tobago House of Assembly in Tobago. As it develops and gains momentum, the intention is to implement the programme in the other municipalities throughout Trinidad.

The Ministry of National Security has also been engaging other **stakeholder groups** on the National Crime Prevention Programme, including Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs), **academia** and the **business sector**. It is hoped that these and all sectors of society will continue to play an integral role in the implementation of the Programme.

The Programme is **solution-gear**ed and will engage and **empower persons** to **contribute directly** to safeguarding **themselves**, their **family members** and their **community** leading to an **improvement in their quality of life**.

The NCPP will also provide persons with a forum to express their specific concerns about security issues within their communities. The NCPP is also structured so as to provide feedback to the communities,

ensuring that they are kept informed of the status of progress with respect to the State's response to their needs. As you can see ladies and gentlemen, this partnership is two-directional to create identified solutions.

At this juncture, let me extend my deepest gratitude to the following for their willingness to partner with the Ministry of National Security as major drivers of the Programme:

- Prime Minister Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley;
- Minister of Rural Development and Local Government Senator the Honourable Kazim Hosein and all other Ministries;
- Chief Secretary of the Tobago House of Assembly, the Honourable Kelvin Charles; and
- Mayor of the Chaguanas Borough Corporation His Worship Gopaul Bodhan;
- CEO of Diego Martin Corporation Miss Susan Hong.

It is to be noted that the **awareness campaign** will continue following today's launch. In keeping with our Whole of Government Approach and Whole of Society Approach, the Ministry of National Security will continue internal dialogue, continue to partner with other Ministries as well as Business entities, Non-Governmental Organisations and the public to implement this crucial and holistic national programme.

What we are seeking to **create** and **nurture** is a **symbiotic relationship** between communities and the **Government**. This can only **redound** to the benefit of **all of us** as we work together, to **identify** and **solve community problems** and challenges. By addressing **the root causes of crime and criminality**, we will surely be on the way to making our communities more **resilient** and **developed**, and provide a better quality of life for each and every one of us.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the National Crime Prevention Programme **heralds the beginning of a new era** of development and stability for our people and country by promoting and facilitating good order, as well as transparent and accountable governance system.

As I close, allow me to reference the old adage “*alone we can do so little, together we can do so much*”. Crime prevention requires an **integrated approach** and **collaboration** is key to the success of this **national initiative**.

I call upon all of **you present** and the **wider community** to join with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the Ministry of National Security, to make this programme a **resounding success**. Through **collaboration** we will make this country **safe** and **secure** for the benefit of all of us.

I leave you with the quote: **None of us is stronger than all of us.**

**If we have to change this country we all have to invest in this change. We all have a part to play.**

May God continue to bless us all and indeed our nation.

I thank you for the courtesy of your attention.