



## **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**BY**

**PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF NATIONAL  
SECURITY**

**MR. VEL LEWIS**

**ON THE OCCASION OF  
THE OPENING SESSION FOR THE  
END-TO-END SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT TRAINING  
29 JANUARY, 2019 – 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY, 2019**

**Date: Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2019**

**Venue: The National Emergency Operations Centre  
(NEOC), Pineapple Drive, Mausica**

**Time: 8:30 A.M.**

Good morning all

It gives me great pleasure to address you this morning at the start of this training workshop entitled “**End to End (E2E) Supply Chain Management**”, a most relevant topic.

Let me on the on-set commend the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM); Caribbean Disaster Management Agency (CDEMA); and the World Programme (WFP) for their collaboration on hosting this forum aimed at enhancing national capabilities for effective and efficient humanitarian supply chain management in crisis events.

This **four-day (4-day) training** is especially opportune at the start of the Trinidad and Tobago Dry Season and facilitates a strengthening of networks and information sharing among stakeholders in the sector, as we plan for the 2019 Wet Season/Hurricane Season.

I am informed that a cross-section of key organisations, responsible for the provision of Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief will be participating in this workshop, including representatives from:

- ✓ The Ministry of National Security’s Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force (TTDF) and Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM);
- ✓ The Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government and its various Regional Corporations;

- ✓ The Tobago House of Assembly (THA);
- ✓ The Customs and Excise Division;
- ✓ The Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago; and
- ✓ PLIPDECO

The above participants are a true demonstration of a Whole-of-Government approach to capacity-building on shared objectives and the support of an integrated response system in crisis events.

I also want to recognise the regional participants visiting from Guyana, namely the representatives of the Civil Defence Commission and the National Disaster Management Agency (NaDMA). A warm welcome to you all.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago remains committed to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Agreement signed in 2008, and executed via the Caribbean Disaster Management Agency (CDEMA). Trinidad and Tobago continues to serve as a sub-Regional Focal Point to the nearby countries of Guyana, Grenada and Suriname; and has oversight for these States, with responsibility for coordination, response and relief efforts in times of severe hazard impact.

Here at home, with regard to humanitarian relief distribution, the ODPM, in executing Government's Comprehensive Disaster Management Policy Framework (CDMPF), aims to maintain efficient emergency logistics and supply chain management systems that incorporates private, public and civilian partnerships. In

emergency situations locally, the ODPM coordinates the multi-agency response and lends critical support the **Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government's Disaster Management Units** - the first-responders during natural disasters.

As part of the National Response Framework, the ODPM coordinates a tiered response through pre-defined partnerships with key local and regional entities. Through the activation of Trinidad and Tobago's National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) – this very building that we meet in today, disaster emergency relief supplies and overall humanitarian logistics operations are executed in tandem with emergency support functions such as the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force, the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, the Trinidad and Tobago Fire Service, other State Agencies and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

Further, from a logistics standpoint, the ODPM maintains an Emergency Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Chain Management System. This system incorporates public, private and civilian partnerships into operations to ensure that humanitarian relief supplies are available for vulnerable populations in emergency and disaster situations.

Ladies and Gentlemen, all of you here today play a pivotal role in **emergency response planning** and moreover, national and

regional **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief**. As such, I say thank you to the officers participating in this training, for accepting the invitation for further development. I urge you to play an active role in this training session over the next four days, keep an open mind and use this opportunity to learn as much as you can, exchange information and share expertise.

Let me also express my gratitude for the facilitators from CDEMA and WFP for sharing your technical expertise on the actions and procedures required for effective relief distribution. I also extend thanks to the ODPM for hosting this information and expertise exchange workshop at your facilities.

In closing, I give you all the assurance that the Ministry of National Security remains steadfast in providing a safe and secure place to live, visit and do business. This four-day training workshop falls right into alignment with the Ministry's strong commitment to disaster management.

Along with adhering to the regional and international conventions on disaster risk reduction and the continued facilitation of capacity building initiatives such as this one; the Ministry will continue to promote an integrated and robust Whole-Of-Government Approach to disaster risk management. Sustainment of this collaborative approach will, in no uncertain terms, contribute to the attainment of sustainable development by strengthening national capacities to reduce risk, and build community resilience to disasters; as well as

end-to-end humanitarian supply chain management in emergency and disaster incidents.

I wish you all a successful training workshop and continued success as you conduct your duties. It is only through collaborative effort can we hope to be better prepared to cope with disasters and hazards and become a truly resilient nation and region.

I thank you.