



# MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

## Corporate Communications Unit

Temple Court I

31-33 Abercromby Street

Port-of-Spain

Tel: (868) 624-5771; 623-2441-8; Fax: (868) 625-3925; Email: [corpcomm@mns.gov.tt](mailto:corpcomm@mns.gov.tt)

---

October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **CLARIFICATION RE. THE PURCHASE OF LIGHT ARMoured PERSONNEL CARRIERS (LAPCs)**

The Ministry of National Security wishes to refer to the statement made by Major General (Ret'd) the Honourable Edmund Dillon, Minister of National Security, in Parliament on Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in relation to the order of six (6) Light Armoured Personnel Carriers by a former Minister.

The Ministry of National Security wishes to confirm the accuracy of the Minister's statement and to inform that the process for acquisition of the LAPCs began in 2014. On September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014, four (4) firms were invited to submit their tenders. On October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014, three (3) of the four (4) firms submitted tenders for the provision of the LAPCs. In May of 2015, a Special Evaluation Committee visited one of these companies in Israel to evaluate its LAPC vehicles.

On January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 unknown to the Permanent Secretary or the Procurement and Legal Units of the Ministry, a former Minister of National Security unilaterally gave assurance, by way of a letter to the Director of the Israeli company, of the purchase of six (6) LAPCs by the Government of

Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT), informing the Director, among other things, to "***proceed as previously discussed...to complete the purchase for the (LAPCs) as highest priority for urgent delivery***" and advising that "***.... will receive the purchase order and deposit in the near future***". The Minister's letter was sent ***four (4) months prior*** to the Evaluation Committee's visit to Israel. This was highly irregular and did not adhere to the Central Tenders Board Act that governs the public service procurement procedure.

On August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the Final Report from the Evaluation Committee was submitted and it was recommended that the Ministry reopen the tender for the acquisition of the Light Armoured Personnel Carriers for a number of reasons. The Ministry continues to treat with the acquisition of LAPCs but **only** in accordance with the proper tendering and procurement guidelines set out by Government's regulations.

**###**

**Marcia Hope**  
**Director - Corporate Communications Unit (CCU)**