

MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

Volume 33, Issue 16

February 23rd, 2018.

Collaborating for change from within Prison walls

On Tuesday 20th February 2018, the Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service in conjunction with Vision on Mission (VOM) hosted the launch of the VOM 2018 *In-Prison, Preparation for Release Programme*, under the theme “*Changing the Criminal Thinking*”.

For over sixteen (16) years, this collaborative initiative between the Prison Service and VOM has played a significant role in crime reduction. Inmates can lack the social and psychological skills needed to thrive lawfully in society; the *In-Prison, Preparation for Release Programme* prepares participants for successful re-entry into their communities.

Speaking at the event, Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of National Security, the Honourable Glenda Jennings-Smith congratulated the Prison Service and Vision on Mission on their collaborative relationship and good work, and reiterated the Ministry’s support for such initiatives aimed at creating a safer and more secure society.

Also speaking at the launch were Deputy Commissioner of Prisons, Mr. Martin Ferrett; Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government, Ms. Desdra Bascombe; Founder and Executive President of Vision on Mission, Mr. Wayne Chance; and Corporate Communications Manager of Community Based Environmental Protection and Enhancement Programme (CEPEP), Ms. Margaret Sampson-Browne.



This Newsletter is a production of the Ministry of National Security’s Corporate Communications Unit (CCU).
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MNS UNIT SPOTLIGHT



This week we feature Part 2 of the MNS Unit Spotlight on the Penal Reform and Transformation Unit.

5. How does the PRTU contribute to the fight against crime?

Our Unit partners with the Prison Service in developing Restorative Justice Initiatives and policies, which aim to reposition the corrections system from a retributive culture to a restorative one. In this way, we can help reduce the rate of reoffending through cognitive and vocational development of inmates, furnishing them with employable skills to assist in their reintegration; and build capacity of persons employed in the Prison Service by facilitating a culture of learning and continuous development.

6. What relationships have been established between the PRTU and other stakeholder agencies in the Penal System?

The PRTU meets often with the Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service Executive and has established a direct liaison with the Assistant Commissioner of Prisons – Programmes and Industry. This collaborative relationship aids in the expansion of programmes geared towards the rehabilitation of inmates and the professional development of prison officers. We also work closely with other agencies of the Ministry of National Security such as the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service and the Probation Services Division, as well as Non-Governmental Organisations and Faith Based Organisations.

7. What are some future projects by the Unit?

We are in ongoing discussions with the Prison Service with regard to the development of a Therapeutic Drug Treatment Programme for inmates; the development of a rehabilitation programme to treat sex offenders and facilitation of further Mental Health Training for Prison Officers.



PRTU staff members: (From left to right) Mr. Colin Tang, Business Operations Assistant II; Mr. Chander Sinanan, Executive Director; and Mr. Walter Alexander, Research Specialist.

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