



MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTER HINDS WELCOMES NEW PARLIAMENTARY AND TRANSIT POLICE OFFICERS

Port of Spain: Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P. has urged new Police Officers attached to the Parliamentary and Transit Police Units, *"to always remember that you are now, members of this country's national security system, that, though consisting of various parts, work in tandem with each other so as to ensure the safety and security of Trinidad and Tobago."*

Minister Hinds gave the advice as he delivered the feature address at the graduation ceremony of Special Reserve Police Officers for the Parliamentary and Transit Police Units, Batch 1 of 2022, held at the Southern Academy for the Performing Arts, Todd Street, San Fernando on Wednesday June 15, 2022.

The Minister welcomed the forty-nine new graduates and thanked them for their commitment to serve the people of Trinidad and Tobago, in having chosen the profession of a police officer.

Addressing the new Parliamentary police graduates, Minister Hinds said that part of their responsibility was not to only carry out their duties with professionalism, but to always treat the organization that they protect and serve, with the greatest respect.

Minister Hinds said: *"Twenty (20) of you will join the ranks of the Parliamentary Police Unit. To you, I say that the Parliament is one the greatest symbols of democracy in this country and your job is so important to the preservation of that democracy and to provide protection for all who work and carry out the people's business there. That makes your job a very significant one."*

He added: *"the Parliament is a meeting place for all the representatives of the people and it falls on you to keep the entirety of the Parliament safe and secure from all intruders. That is, the complex itself which includes the Red House and ancillary facilities, its assets, the staff and visitors and of course the Members of Parliament."*

Minister Hinds also addressed the new graduates attached to the Transit Police Unit.

He said: *"Twenty-nine (29) of you will be inducted into the Transit Police Unit, Ministry of National Security, and you will provide increased and dedicated enforcement along the Priority Bus Route, City Gate, Route One Maxi Taxi Stand on Independence Square South, and the Arima Maxi Taxi Stand. You must keep the Priority Bus Route free from unauthorised use and abuse, so that emergencies and priority vehicles can have free and safe passage. At times you may have to engage criminal elements who may wish to enter and egress this thoroughfare to avoid and attempt to escape pursuit from other arms of Law Enforcement."*

Minister Hinds congratulated the graduates on the successful completion of their induction training and welcomed them into the service and by extension the National Security family. He then took the opportunity to thank all the men and women of the Defence and Protective Services for their dedication to duty and selfless service to the people.

Also present at the ceremony were Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Security, Ms. Nataki Atiba-Dilchan; Clerk of the Senate, Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Brian Caesar and Director of the Office of Law Enforcement Policy (OLEP), Ms. Gale Charles.

PHOTOS AND CAPTIONS:



Photo One: Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds MP; delivers the feature address at the graduation ceremony for Parliamentary and Transit Police Officers on Wednesday June 15, 2022, at the Southern Academy for the Performing Arts (SAPA).



Photo Two: Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Security, Ms. Nataki Atiba-Dilchan presents award to Transit Police graduating officer, Mr. Akil Franco at the graduation ceremony for Parliamentary and Transit Police Officers on Wednesday June 15, 2022, at the Southern Academy for the Performing Arts (SAPA).

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