



# MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

August 23, 2022

For Immediate Release

## MEDIA RELEASE

### MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSIONS NEW LEARNING CENTRE AT THE YOUTH TRANSFORMATION REHABILITATION CENTRE FOR FEMALES

**Port of Spain:** Efforts to enhance the delivery of rehabilitative programmes at the nation's prisons have been set in train with the commissioning of a new Learning Centre at the Youth Transformation Rehabilitation Centre for Females (YTRCF), Golden Grove Road, Arouca.

Minister of National Security the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P. joined the Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to formally open the facility with a brief Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony on Tuesday August 23, 2022.

The event was two-fold as thirty-seven prison (37) officers and three (3) probation officers received certificates for successfully completing a Youth Mentorship and Motivation Training Series in May 2022. The series was organized by the UNDP and conducted by a global expert in juvenile justice assessments and training. The Presentation of Certificates took place at the Youth Training and Rehabilitation Centre (YTRC), formerly known as the Youth Training Centre, Golden Grove Road, Arouca.

In his Remarks, Minister Hinds commended the Prison Service and the UNDP for working together to bring both initiatives to fruition. He acknowledged the longstanding bilateral relationship between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the UNDP; and thanked UNDP Resident Representative Ms. Randi Davis for the organization's continued technical assistance, particularly in the area of youth offender rehabilitation.

The Minister stated that *"Government has placed particular focus on the rehabilitation of young offenders and equipping officers' accordingly. As such, I recommit the Ministry of National Security's support to the YTRC and YTRCF, as the Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service pursues the process of reform and training that would enable those in custody, to return and function beneficially to society"*.

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Minister Hinds congratulated the prison officers and probation officers who participated in the Youth Mentorship and Motivation Training Workshop, and expressed appreciation to all men and women of the Prison Service and the Probation Services Division, for their committed service to the young persons under their supervision. He stated that the Ministry of National Security will continue to promote the practice of continuous training and development of all national security officers.

Commissioner of Prisons (Ag.) Mr. Deopersad Ramoutar also highlighted the Prison Service's strong working relationship with the UNDP. He iterated that the Prison Service continues to work closely with all stakeholders to ensure that youth facilities are not merely places of incarceration but learning centres, providing education and academic opportunities to young offenders housed at the YTRC and YTRCF.

Also speaking at the event, UNDP Resident Representative Ms. Randi Davis indicated that the establishment of the YTRCF Learning Centre and the Youth Mentorship and Motivation Training Series form part of the wider UNDP Prevention of Violent Extremism - Youth Empowerment and Strengthening (PVE-YES) Project, which was extended to the Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service's Youth Training and Rehabilitation Centre (YTRC) in the latter part of 2019.

The Youth Mentorship and Motivation Training Series, conducted during the period April 29 to May 28, 2022, aimed to further expose prison officers and probation officers to training in approaches that enhance their capacity to effectively deal with the youth under their charge, in further alignment with the restorative justice philosophy and best practices in juvenile justice administration. Modules included Motivational Interviewing; Mentoring Youth in Conflict with the Law; Understanding Issues Facing At-Risk Youth; and Understanding the Role as Prison Officer and Youth Worker.

The Learning Centre at the YTRCF, donated by the UNDP, provides a dedicated space to conduct classes to complement the Prison Service's rehabilitative programmes, for females housed at the Centre. It will be a green space, partly powered by renewable energy from solar panels, with access to cutting-edge learning tools to aid education and learning.

### **Photos and captions:**



1. Minister of National Security the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P. (centre) is joined by Commissioner of Prisons (Ag.) Mr. Deopersad Ramoutar (left) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Resident Representative, Ms. Randi Davis to cut the ribbon to open the Learning Centre established at the Youth Transformation Rehabilitation Centre for Females (YTRCF), Golden Grove Road, Arouca, on Tuesday August 23, 2022.



2. Minister of National Security the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P. (front centre) along with Acting Commissioner of Prisons Mr. Deopersad Ramoutar (left) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Resident Representative, Ms. Randi Davis (right), with the participants of the Youth Mentorship and Motivation Training Programme; following a Certificate Distribution Ceremony held at the Youth Training and Rehabilitation Centre (YTRC), Golden Grove Road, Arouca on Tuesday August 23, 2022.

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