



MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

WHAT'S HAPPENING

October 07, 2022

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REGULAR POLYGRAPHING OF NEW NATIONAL SECURITY OFFICERS COMING



During his contribution on the Appropriation Bill 2023 on Monday October 03, 2022, Minister of National Security the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds MP stated that a bill will soon be debated in Parliament, which will subject various arms of the Ministry of National Security and public officers to regular polygraphing, as part of integrity tests.

Minister Hinds stated, "We have mandated from the Ministry of National Security that all the heads of Agencies do more stringent and complete vetting when it comes to recruiting new members."

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The Minister further explained, “The main reason we are bringing this bill to Parliament is to allow us to subject our National Security Officers to more rigorous testing during the vetting process and to allow for our members within the Ministry’s divisions to be subjected to modern methods of integrity testing throughout their career either as law enforcement officers or members of the public service”.

Minister Hinds also indicated that improved methods of crime control and of securing the nation’s borders will be implemented in the new fiscal year.



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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNED FOR AIRCOP PROGRAMME IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



On Friday September 30, 2022, the Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P. and the Resident Representative of the United Nations (UN), Mr. Gerardo Noto, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT) and the United Nations for the Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP).

AIRCOP is a multi-agency project, implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in partnership with the International Criminal Police (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organisation (WCO).

It aims at strengthening the capacities of international airports to detect and intercept drugs, other illicit goods and high-risk passengers, including foreign terrorist fighters, in origin, transit and destination countries with the overall objective of disrupting criminal networks.

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AIRCOP supports inter-agency cooperation through the establishment of Joint Airport Interdiction Task Forces (JAITF), which bring together law enforcement agencies operating at international airports.

At the signing ceremony, Minister Hinds thanked the UNODC for its commitment to the establishment of this Project in Trinidad and Tobago.

He stated, "The signing of the MOU today, represents the formalization of the relationship between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), under AIRCOP. Issues of crime and security continue to plague Trinidad and Tobago, and it is only through cooperation with civil society organisations, regional entities and international partners that we will be able to develop and implement effective solutions."

The Ministry of National Security is in the process of finalizing arrangements for the establishment of a JAITF team at the Piarco International Airport.



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INTERIM PENSION PAYMENT TO BRING RELIEF TO RETIRED POLICE OFFICERS



On Thursday September 29, 2022 the Cabinet of Trinidad and Tobago accepted the recommendations of the Minister of National Security for the amendment of the Police Service Regulations to allow for the payment of an Interim Pension of \$3,500 to Officers who retire compulsorily from the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service. This approval is in keeping with the 2018 policy which was espoused for public officers to access the interim pension.

Commenting on the Cabinet approval, the Commissioner of Police, Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, Mr. McDonald Jacob said, "The old system frustrated police officers over the years and in keeping with the Police Service's Strategic Plan, the welfare of officers is a top priority." He further stated that he is determined to ensure officers have early access to their retirement benefits.

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Mr. Jacob said he is aware all officers look forward to retirement and the remuneration and benefits accrued over time, after serving their country with P.R.I.D.E.

He agreed the interim pension payment is a positive move and a step towards enhancing the system of processing retirement benefits for police officers.

Officers will begin receiving this interim payment with effect from October 2022.



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