



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

WHAT'S HAPPENING

February 03, 2023

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MNS STAFF BRING THE HEAT IN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CHOW COMPETITION

The Ministry of National Security invited staff to participate in an Inter-Departmental Chow Competition held on Friday January 27, 2023 at the Ministry's Head Office.

Six (6) teams responded to the call and they all brought team spirit, friendly rivalry and creative presentations in the keenly contested event, aimed at promoting health and wellness and camaraderie. Teams used a combination of fruits and vegetables to make their chow dish and were judged on the categories of originality of recipe, team spirit, appearance, aroma, taste and presentation.

The Records Management Unit "*Chow Rebels*" copped the first place prize with their creative display and tasty chow. Coming in second was the National Drug Council (NDC) "*Chow Shakers*". Taking third place was the Human Resource Management Unit "*The Heat Report*".



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Also participating in the competition were the Military Liaison Office appearing under the name *"Hard Fete"*; the Office Management Unit, appearing as *"The Usual Suspects"*; and the Project Building Blocks team.

The judges comprised Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag.), Ms. Deokie Sintra Maharaj; Business Operations Coordinator at the ICTU, Ms. Evelyn Bidah; and guest judges from the Basil Bistro Restaurant, Chef Johann Akeung and Mr. Allan Sirjoo.

Permanent Secretary (Ag.) Mr. Gary Joseph was on hand to congratulate all participants.

Prizes were sponsored by Guardian Life of the Caribbean, Vemco, Fine Line Distributors Limited, and the Basil Bistro Restaurant.



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NEW OFFICER CADETS WELCOMED TO THE DEFENCE FORCE

Twelve (12) new officer cadets have been welcomed into the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force (TTDF).

Speaking at the Graduation Ceremony held on Friday January 27, 2023 at the Defence Force Military Academy in Corinth, San Fernando, Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P. congratulated the officer cadets for successfully completing the



Joint Basic Officers' Training Course (JBOTC). Through this training, the officers are now ready to integrate into the TTDF, to effectively contribute to national security.

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Also present to congratulate the officer cadets were Chief of Defence Staff Air Vice Marshal Darryl Daniel; along with formation commanders from the Regiment, Coast Guard, Air Guard, and TTDF Reserves.

The JBOTC intake 2101 course focused on preparing the officer cadets for leadership in various roles; basic military skills; physical fitness; and administrative efficiency.



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CTU RAISES HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS AMONG THE YOUTH

The Counter Trafficking Unit (CTU), in commemoration of Human Trafficking Prevention Month in January, held sensitization sessions with two (2) schools to raise awareness on child trafficking and to warn children and school teachers of the dangers associated with the crime.



On Wednesday January 25, 2023 an outreach session was held at the Penal Quinam Government Primary School with Infants 1 and 2, as well as students from Standards 1 to 5. On Monday January 30, 2023, a session was conducted at the Brazil RC Primary School with students from Standards 4 and 5.

The sessions covered a basic introduction to Human Trafficking, how students can safeguard themselves against Human Trafficking and the harmful reality of online grooming.

Delivering the sensitization sessions was Deputy Director of the CTU, Ms. Kimoy Thomas-Williams.



Here is a reminder that persons who know of or suspect human trafficking activity should contact the CTU toll-free hotline at 800-4288 (4CTU).

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POLICE OFFICERS ENCOURAGED TO MAINTAIN OUTSTANDING WORK



Nineteen (19) police officers have been officially commended for their exceptional performance of duty, while on Active Direct Patrol.

A ceremony was held on Thursday January 26, 2023 at the Police Administration Building in Port of Spain and the officers were presented with commendation certificates in recognition of their efforts.

Acting Commissioner of Police, Ms. Eral Christopher addressed the officers and congratulated them for their exemplary conduct and encouraged them to maintain high performance standards.

The officers were commended for actions including the swift apprehension of robbery suspects; the apprehension of a kidnapping suspect and recovery of the kidnap victim.

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COVID-19 AND INFLUENZA VACCINATIONS



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



- 1 Can I get the COVID-19 vaccine and the Influenza vaccine at the same time?**
Persons should wait at least 2 weeks between taking the Influenza vaccine and the COVID-19 vaccine.
- 2 How many COVID-19 Boosters do I need?**
The Ministry of Health recommends a programme of two (2) Covid-19 booster doses taken four (4) to six (6) months apart.
- 3 What is the difference between Influenza and the Common Cold?**
The Influenza virus is more severe than the Common Cold and its onset is more abrupt. Signs and symptoms of the Influenza virus may include: fever, runny nose, cough, sore throat, headache, chills, body pain or muscle pains.
- 4 How often should the Influenza vaccine be taken?**
The Influenza vaccine should be taken once a year during the Influenza season. Members of the public are reminded that the Influenza season runs from October 2022 to May 2023.
- 5 I recently contracted the COVID-19 virus. When can I get boosted?**
Under the WHO Emergency Use License (EUL), individuals who have previously been infected with COVID-19 are eligible to receive the vaccine, however, vaccination should occur 3 months after contracting the virus.
- 6 Which vaccine should I take?**
Both the Johnson & Johnson and the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines are acceptable for use as a booster dose for all Emergency Use License (EUL) approved vaccines.
- 7 What should I bring / do on the day of receiving the vaccine?**
On the day of vaccination persons should:
 - Have a good meal
 - Refrain from consuming alcoholic beverages
 - Wear clothing that will provide easy access to the upper arm for vaccination
 - Bring to the facility your vaccination card and a valid form of identification (e.g. Driver's Permit, National Identification, Passport)
- 8 Why should I get the COVID-19 and Influenza vaccines now?**
By getting vaccinated for COVID-19, you are reducing your risk of disease, hospitalization, severe complications, and even death due to COVID-19, for both you and your loved ones.
Getting the Influenza vaccine can help protect you from getting the Influenza Virus and spreading it to others. The Influenza Vaccine can also reduce the severity of Influenza symptoms, if they do occur.



The Johnson and Johnson or Sinopharm vaccine can boost ANY COVID-19 vaccine.
THE COVID-19 vaccine is EUL approved

**VACCINES!
SAVE LIVES!**

No
appointment
required





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