



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

WHAT'S HAPPENING

February 10, 2023

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EFFORTS CONTINUE TO COUNTER HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Ministry of National Security is committed to continue, through the Counter Trafficking Unit (CTU), to prevent and counteract Human Trafficking in all its forms. The Ministry maintains a close working relationship with all law enforcement partners to prosecute those who engage in this grave violation of human rights.



Minister of National Security the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P. underscored the above statement when he delivered remarks at the *Caribbean Regional Freedom from Slavery Forum 2023* on Monday February 06, 2023.

Minister Hinds also used this opportunity to engage with the participants at the forum and encouraged the attendees to connect, commit and act to end human trafficking in the Caribbean region.

The Freedom from Slavery Forum was held in Port of Spain, Trinidad from February 06 – 08, 2023, under the theme *"Enabling Local Engagements and Global Synergies for Addressing Modern Slavery in the Caribbean"*.

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FIREARMS AMENDMENT BILL PASSED IN SENATE



Minister of National Security the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P. introduced the Firearms (Amendment) Bill, 2022 in the Senate on Friday February 03, 2023. The Bill aims to amend the Firearms Act Chap. 16:01.

A key feature is the expansion of persons allowed to possess firearms or

ammunition in a public place which also empowers the Commissioner of Prisons to permit off-duty prison officers to possess firearms and ammunition, if, in his consideration, their life or safety is threatened.

Importantly, the Bill also treats with the prohibition of sale or transfer of firearms or ammunition by persons employed in law enforcement and national security agencies. Should any of these persons commit an offence relating to the sale or transfer of firearms or ammunition, they would be held liable and convicted accordingly.

The Firearms (Amendment) Bill, 2022 was passed in the Senate on Wednesday February 08, 2023, with amendments.

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MNS WELCOMES FIRST FEMALE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

On Friday February 03, 2023, the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago approved the Notification of Her Excellency, the President, in respect of the nomination of Ms. Erla Harewood-Christopher for appointment to the Office of Commissioner of Police.

Members of Parliament voted unanimously in favour of the motion to

confirm Ms. Harewood-Christopher as the first female Commissioner of Police in Trinidad and Tobago. Ms. Harewood-Christopher was nominated for the position by the Police Service Commission as she was the top candidate on the merit list.

Ms. Harewood-Christopher received her Instrument of Appointment on Friday February 10, 2023 from Chairman of the Police Service Commission Justice (Ret'd) Judith Jones, at the Police Service Commission's office in Tunapuna.

The Ministry of National Security congratulates Commissioner of Police, Ms. Harewood-Christopher on her appointment and extends best wishes to her as she leads the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service forward.



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RESIDENT OF YTRC IN 2023 CALYPSO MONARCH SEMI FINALS



The Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service and by extension the Ministry of National Security extends best wishes to Youth Training and Rehabilitation Centre (YTRC) resident Romel Lezama, as he competes in the Semi Finals of the National Calypso Monarch Competition on Saturday February 11, 2023 with his calypso titled "*Walls of Renovation*".

Mr. Lezama has created history as the first Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service charge to qualify for the Semi Finals of the National Calypso Monarch Competition.



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