



MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY RECEIVES DISASTER RELIEF EQUIPMENT DONATION FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Port of Spain: On Friday April 28, 2023, Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P., received on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, a donation of Disaster Response Equipment from the People's Republic of China, which was presented by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Trinidad and Tobago, His Excellency Fang Qiu.

The donated equipment comprised thirty (30) Emergency Tents; ten (10) Standby Generators; and five (5) Rescue Boats inclusive of Engines, Fuel Containers and twenty-five (25) Life Jackets.

Minister Hinds noted that the donation will serve to boost the deployment capabilities of first responder agencies. He stated, *"The equipment donated today will come in handy and be strategically pre-positioned with our disaster response agencies, to support evacuation and other response and relief operations, to the multiple hazards that we face."*

Minister Hinds commended Ambassador Fang Qiu for his outstanding efforts to strengthen the bilateral relationship between the two nations, and welcomed the contribution to our country's disaster readiness and resilience.

The Minister also gave the assurance that the Ministry of National Security will continue to work with its partners in the diplomatic community and facilitate greater partnerships among State Agencies, the private sector, NGOs and communities, to reduce disaster and climate risks and by extension, attain sustainable development in Trinidad and Tobago.

Ambassador Fang Qiu noted that the donation of Disaster Relief Equipment was an example of the existing longstanding bilateral relationship and historical cooperation between Trinidad and Tobago and the People's Republic of China. He expressed interest in expanding collaboration with Trinidad and Tobago in areas such as climate change, green development, and enhancing capacity in disaster prevention and mitigation.

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Also present at the handover of equipment were Permanent Secretary (Ag.) in the Ministry of National Security, Ms. Nataki Atiba-Dilchan; Vice Chief of Defence Staff, Brigadier General Dexter Francis; Commissioner of Police, Ms. Erla Harewood-Christopher; Chief Fire Officer, Mr. Arnold Bristo; Commissioner of Prisons (Ag.), Mr. Deopersad Ramoutar; Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management, Major General (Ret'd) Rodney Smart; Representatives of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago; Director of the Tobago Emergency Management Agency, Mr. Allan Stewart; Senior Disaster Management Coordinator, of the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government, Mr. Jerry David; and Deputy Director, International Affairs Unit, Ministry of National Security, Major (Ret'd) Richard Lynch.

Photos and captions:



1. Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P. (*left*) receives a donation of disaster management equipment from Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Trinidad and Tobago His Excellency Fang Qiu (*right*), at a Handover Ceremony on Friday, April 28 2023 at the ODPM's Alternate National Emergency Operations Centre (ANEOC), Pineapple Drive, Mausica.



2. Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P. (*second from right*); Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Trinidad and Tobago His Excellency Fang Qiu (*second from left*); Permanent Secretary (Ag.) in the Ministry of National Security, Ms. Nataki Atiba-Dilchan (*first from right*); and Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management, Major General (Ret'd) Rodney Smart (*first from left*), view a rescue boat and other disaster management equipment donated by the Government of the People's Republic of China.

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