



MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

May 18, 2023

For Immediate Release

MEDIA STATEMENT

INACCURATE REPORTING OF MINISTER HINDS COMMENTS IN EXPRESS EDITORIAL (MAY 18, 2023)

Port of Spain: The Ministry of National Security has taken note of the Editorial appearing in today's edition (May 18, 2023) of the Express Newspapers headlined: "A report to take on board".

In this editorial, the publisher, represented by Editor-in-Chief, Ms. Omatie Lyder, referenced a statement by the Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds, M.P., when he spoke at a news conference on Monday May 01, 2023 at the Ministry's head office in Port-of-Spain.

The Express editorial inaccurately referenced the Minister's statement from that news conference stating that the Minister commented that "criminals have friends among judges."

It must be stressed that at no point did Minister Hinds refer to "judges" in his statement. In fact, the Minister stated, inter alia: "The criminals have friends everywhere in this country. They have them in the Police Service, they have them in the Customs, in the Immigration, in the Defence Force. They have them in the Judiciary. They have them in the Parliament."

While interpretations are understandable, it is expected that if the Express editorial wants to quote the Minister, it should do so correctly and accurately.

Indeed, the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Senator the Honourable Reginald Armour, SC, would have said, subsequently, that he was satisfied that the Minister did not impugn the integrity of the Judiciary in his statement.

Such a grave error by a daily newspaper regarding the Minister's statements, given the potential negative and far-reaching implications, cannot go unattended by the Ministry.

In the circumstances, the Ministry is seeking an immediate correction in your next day's newspaper, as well as a commensurate correction, to accompany your digital and online versions of the editorial.

The Ministry anticipates the newspaper's timely corrective action in this regard.

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