



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Homeland Security

December 29, 2025

For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

Expansion of Migrant Registration Framework and Enhanced National Security Measures

PORT OF SPAIN — In a strategic move to promote equity and bolster national security, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is **expanding the Migrant Registration Framework (MRF) to include all eligible illegal immigrants currently residing within our borders**, moving beyond the previous exclusive focus on Venezuelan nationals. Under the newly issued Legal Notice No. 470, the Immigration (Exemption from Work Permit) (Immigrants) Order, 2025, has been established to allow all registered illegal immigrants to live and work legally in Trinidad and Tobago from January 1, 2026, to September 30, 2026.

To facilitate this, the Minister of Homeland Security will oversee the issuance of a "registrant cards" which will display the individual's name, date of birth, photograph, and expiration date. Furthermore, through Legal Notice No. 469, the Immigration Regulations have been amended to specifically include the children of immigrants who hold a permit issued under Section 10 of the Act, ensuring their status is recognized alongside their parents.

This expansion is designed to facilitate comprehensive data collection and allow the State an increased level of control over the migrant population while simultaneously addressing public safety concerns. While providing this pathway for registration, the Ministry remains firm in its commitment to protecting citizens by addressing high-risk individuals within the migrant community. Consequently, the Ministry has recommended the deportation for illegal immigrants who have committed criminal offenses or are deemed high-risk. This matter has been referred by Cabinet for further consideration to finalize coordination efforts, which will require the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs to successfully engage in discussions with relevant Consulates and Embassies through diplomatic channels to facilitate these deportations and discuss potential cost-sharing measures.

**Corporate Communications Unit
Ministry of Homeland Security
Level 19-21, Tower C, International Waterfront Centre,
#1 Wrightson Road, Port of Spain
Telephone: 224-4667 | Email: corpcomm@mns.gov.tt**



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The Honourable R. Alexander, Minister of Homeland Security, noted that this exercise is an optimal step toward ensuring that our borders and communities remain safe. The Minister stated that “by transitioning to this holistic, equitable a framework among all illegal immigrants, the Government aims to ensure that those who contribute to society can do so legally, while those who pose a threat are removed”. The Ministry of Homeland Security will begin the registration process in January 2026, and further details regarding registration centres and specific requirements will be published in the coming weeks.

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