



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Homeland Security

August 15, 2025

For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

National Day of Prayer and Reflection August 31, 2025

Replacement of the Independence Day Parade with a National Day of Prayer and Reflection due to the State of Emergency

After careful deliberation on intelligence arising out of the State of Emergency, the Government has taken the decision to replace the annual Independence Day Parade and Official Functions with a National Day of Prayer and Reflection.

The National Day of Prayer and Reflection will bring together citizens of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, of all faiths and backgrounds, to unite and to seek guidance and strength during this challenging time, as well as to reflect on where we are as a nation and the way forward.

There is precedent for the cancellation of the Independence Day Parade in the recent past, as the parade was not observed in 2020 and 2021. Both cancellations occurred as a result of COVID-19-related public health concerns. The Government has, however, chosen to commemorate the occasion of our 63rd Independence with a National Day of Prayer and Reflection.

Cancellation of State-Sponsored Fireworks Display:

In keeping with current security priorities and to maintain an environment conducive to public safety, the Government will not host the traditional State-sponsored fireworks display this year.

"Silent" Fireworks for Private Displays Only:

The Government will however, issue permits solely for the sale and use of "Silent" Fireworks for private displays.

This policy aims to limit noise disturbances, particularly for vulnerable persons, pets and their owners whilst also supporting the peace and stability necessary during the State of Emergency.



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The Government of Trinidad and Tobago, acknowledges the significance of the Independence Day Parade to the nation's heritage and assures citizens that these adjustments are made in the interest of national security and the collective well-being of the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

Citizens are encouraged to mark this important milestone through safe, reflective, and community-oriented activities.

END.



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