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**TO: NEWS EDITORS**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TT CHAMBER'S VIEWS ON THE LIMITED STATE OF EMERGENCY**

The Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce is pleased to see that the Government has taken decisive action to treat with the recent up-surge in murders and gang violence in the country with the announcement by the Honourable Prime Minister of a Limited State of Emergency.

We wish to remind the government, however, that this limited State of Emergency can only be seen as a stop-gap measure and not a strategy in and of itself to curb the recent spate of violent crimes that seem to be taking over our nation. The Chamber has, for several years, been calling on successive governments to judiciously use this initial measure as one tool, in conjunction with a comprehensive and sustainable crime plan that will show positive and long term results.

We remain concerned, however, as to how the 9.00pm to 5.00 am curfew will address the now commonplace practice of homicides blatantly occurring during the daytime period.

The Chamber looks forward to regular updates from the Government that will keep the public fully apprised of the developments taking place during this time of heightened security and national uncertainty. The business community stands ready to co-operate fully with the directives of the Commissioner of Police and to assist in any way that it can during this period. We trust however, that some mechanism will be found to facilitate the normal flow of goods and services to keep the economies of both islands stable for the duration that the limited State of Emergency will be imposed.

**MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS**

