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TO: NEWS EDITORS

PRESS RELEASE

RE: CHAMBER VIEW ON REPORTED IMPENDING INDUSTRIAL ACTION BY POLICE

In light of the worsening crime situation in this country, the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce expresses grave concern and is of the strong belief that the impending industrial action that the police service has threatened to take on Monday is highly irresponsible and demonstrates a lack of respect for the laws of the land which the police themselves are mandated to uphold.

Additionally, the recent developments of road blockage by residents in the Point Fortin and Tamana communities, for two consecutive days in one instance, which led to heightened levels of insecurity and which put the livelihoods of both businesses and families at risk, demonstrates the real need for the police to be both vigilant and on the job at all times. What the nation needs at this time is certainly not a reduction in police presence, but rather an increase.

We wish to reiterate that the Chamber is not in favour of any “day of rest and reflection”, as is reportedly being threatened by some members of the police service. Any such industrial action could only serve to hurt the country’s fragile economy, state of security and also damage confidence perceptions. It will negatively impact not only Business, but all citizens of Trinidad and Tobago.

Instead, the Chamber urges all parties to return to the negotiating table in accordance with the provisions of the Industrial Relations Act. The

application of restraint and reason need to exist at this time to move negotiations forward.

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS