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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**December 8, 2017**

**DEFEAT OF THE ANTI-GANG BILL, 2017**

The Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce is deeply disappointed that the Anti-Gang Bill 2017 has been defeated in Parliament.

At present, the country is experiencing a serious crime wave, with homicides well on the way towards another record high. It appears that much of this is attributable to gang warfare, and the figures on gang activity recently revealed by the Attorney-General are nothing short of alarming.

The Bill that was presented to Parliament was amended, taking into consideration comments from various stakeholders and decisions of our Courts. Following the vote, it is now incumbent upon the Opposition to identify clearly to the nation, what were the points of contention and what proposals had been made to resolve them.

Urgent and strong actions are needed to disable the growing threat of crime currently undermining public safety and security. The T&T Chamber firmly believes the passage of the anti-gang legislation would have initiated a positive step in the right direction; instead, this set back is likely to work to our detriment.

The T&T Chamber reiterates its position that a multi-faceted and multi-layered approach is needed to address crime. While the necessary steps are being taken to address issues holistically, it is imperative that those in positions of leadership and authority act responsibly in the interest of the nation.

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