

MEDIA INTERVIEW

Response to CNC3
C/o Dareece Polo

May 14, 2024

T&T Chamber responds to the extension of the Commissioner of Police

In response to the renewal of Ms. Erla Harewood-Christopher's contract as Commissioner of Police (CoP) for another one-year term, Ms. Kiran Maharaj, President of the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce (T&T Chamber), highlighted the importance of providing the necessary resources, support and processes for effective solutions in addressing the escalating crime challenges in Trinidad and Tobago. While the extension presents an opportunity for leadership continuity in the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) and allow implementation of ongoing plans, it should be part of a broader strategy to combat crime.

The T&T Chamber remains deeply concerned about the increasing criminal activities we face as a society. Additionally, there are ongoing concerns about gang recruitment on social media platforms, an issue previously highlighted by the T&T Chamber in discussions with the TTPS. The implementation of effective detection strategies is essential to mitigate this evolving threat.

As Commissioner, Ms. Harewood must have full support from the national leaders and be adequately resourced if she is to be effective. The internal management of the TTPS needs to be addressed from recruitment to resource allocation; mitigation mechanisms must also be properly implemented to be sustainable. Detection and evidence gathering leading to successful prosecution is a key deliverable for the police.

While there is no quick fix, the one year gives the Commissioner a valuable extension to manage effectively, thereby giving the society the comfort that progress is being made to reclaim freedoms from escalating crime.

For more information, contact

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