



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government

Priority: For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

One Step Closer to Achieving Government's Mandate

August 3rd 2020, Kent House, Maraval – The Minister of Rural Development and Local Government, Senator the Honourable Haji Kazim Hosein, extended congratulations to one hundred and fifteen (115) new Municipal Police Constables (Batch 2 of 2019) who graduated from the Municipal Police Training Academy in Marabella today. These officers will be deployed to the Port of Spain City Corporation, San Fernando City Corporation, Arima Borough Corporation and the Point Fortin Borough Corporation.

In delivering the feature address, Minister Hosein disclosed that he was passionate about the Municipal Police Service and achieving Government's mandate to strengthen the force to 100 officers in each municipality except the city of Port-of-Spain which would have 200 officers. He went on to say that although there could not be a big ceremony or parade due to the Public Health Ordinance guidelines, this was indeed a historic day. The Minister added "We are well on the way to achieving our mandate of 1500 officers. You are a living testament of the Honourable Prime Minister's vision and the Government's Vision 2030." Minister Hosein encouraged the new officers to keep focused and to shun corrupt practices - he urged them to be transparent at all times and to do their best. Minister Hosein expressed his love for the officers and asked God to bless them with good health and long life.

Assistant Commissioner of the Trinidad and Tobago Municipal Police Service (TTMPS), Mr. Surendra Sagramsingh, imparted that this was a transition from civilian life into police life and this was only the beginning of the journey. He advised the new officers to embrace this opportunity and shared his expectation of only good things for the batch.

Mr Andre Norton, Superintendent at the Police Academy, beamed with pride as he lauded the collaboration between the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service and the Trinidad and Tobago Municipal Police Service to provide excellent training and support to

Communications Unit

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recruits. He informed the newly installed officers that they would no longer be considered a mere *Mr.* or a *Ms.* in their communities, but as *Officer* and, with this new title comes a heavy responsibility. One responsibility highlighted was the use of force, as such he reminded batch 2/2019 of the oath of office they had taken and instructed them to let integrity and truthfulness be at the forefront while performing their duties.

Valedictorian, WPC Jessica Ghingooree, expressed that the journey to Municipal Police Constable was paved in sacrifices and that their lives were forever changed for the better. In addressing the gathering, WPC Ghingooree outlined that she and her fellow officers had trained the longest in TTMPs history for a total of (8) months. They were then deployed for carnival duty and were on the frontline of the COVID-19 response. In commending the Police Academy instructors she asserted "to be the best, you must train with the best". She encouraged her batch to continue being attentive, reliable and fair as they would now be the first judge.

As our nation continues to observe social distancing and other hygiene guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health to curb the spread of COVID-19, new constables received their certificates in six (6) batches in order to minimize the number of persons congregating in a given area at one time. The traditional passing-out parade was not included in today's proceedings nor were guests facilitated.

Thus far, under the stewardship of Minister Hosein, the complement of Officers within the Municipal Police Service has increased from 216 officers in 2016 to 737 officers with the addition of today's cohort. Approximately 300 recruits are scheduled to begin training in September 2020 and another recruitment process for Municipal Police constables began this month.

Also in attendance at today's graduation was Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government - Desdra Bascombe, Deputy Chairman, Statutory Authorities Service Commission (SASC) - Mr. Kenneth Parker, Police Academy Superintendent - Mr. Andre Norton, Deputy Mayor of Port-of-Spain - Mr. Hillan Morean and Deputy Mayor of San Fernando - Dr. Ferri Hosein.

END.

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Minister Hosein and Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government Desdra Bascombe present award to *Most Outstanding Trainee WPC Jessica Ghingooree* at Municipal Police Graduation



Newly installed Municipal Police Constables at Municipal Police Graduation Ceremony.

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ASP Curtis Belford, Minister Hosein and members of the head table at Municipal Police Graduation



Minister Hosein and Permanent Secretary Desdra Bascombe with Assistant Commissioner of the Municipal Police Mr. Sagramsingh and TTMPs Commanders at Municipal Police Graduation.

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Minister Hosein delivers feature address at Municipal Police Graduation.

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