



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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MEDIA RELEASE

Ministry of Defence Leads Implementation Discussions for 2025 National Counterterrorism Strategy

The Ministry of Defence, through its Counterterrorism Unit, convened the second meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Counterterrorism (IMCCT) on Wednesday, 5th August 2026, to advance the implementation of Trinidad and Tobago's 2025 National Counterterrorism Strategy.

The meeting brought together key government stakeholders to discuss the strategic implementation of the National Counterterrorism Strategy, with particular focus on strengthening border security, protecting critical infrastructure, enhancing inter-agency coordination, and advancing legislative and policy measures to bolster the country's counterterrorism framework.

Among those in attendance were the Honourable Wayne Sturge, Minister of Defence; the Honourable Sean Sobers, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs; the Honourable Devesh Maharaj, Minister of Justice and Minister in the Office of the Attorney General; and the Honourable Davendranath Tanco, Minister of Finance.

In his feature remarks, Minister Sturge outlined Trinidad and Tobago's approach to strengthening its counterterrorism response and acknowledged the ongoing work of the Ministry's Counterterrorism Unit in coordinating national efforts to prevent and counter terrorism.

"The reality is that counterterrorism is not solely a security or law enforcement issue. It is a whole-of-government responsibility that demands coordinated action across policy development, legislation, intelligence, border security, law enforcement, financial oversight, diplomacy, critical infrastructure protection, emergency preparedness, and international cooperation."

The meeting also provided an opportunity for ministers to address the respective roles of their portfolios in strengthening Trinidad and Tobago's counterterrorism framework.

The Honourable Sean Sobers, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, noted the role of international cooperation in addressing the evolving global threat of terrorism. He spoke to the value of strengthening partnerships with regional and international organisations to enhance intelligence sharing, institutional resilience, interoperability, and the protection of critical infrastructure.

The Honourable Devesh Maharaj, Minister of Justice and Minister in the Office of the Attorney General, addressed the contribution of robust legal and forensic frameworks in supporting the country's counterterrorism efforts. He noted the role of broader legislative measures including The Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) Act (2007) broader legislative in strengthening Trinidad and Tobago's ability to investigate, prosecute and respond to terrorism-related offences.

The Honourable Davendranath Tanco, Minister of Finance, referenced the role of strong financial oversight, customs, and regulatory systems in disrupting terrorist financing and organised criminal activity. He also spoke about ongoing efforts to modernise customs operations and deepen collaboration with international partners to strengthen national security.

The meeting also included operational updates on the implementation of the National Counterterrorism Strategy, as well as discussions on legislative amendments and policy safeguards designed to strengthen Trinidad and Tobago's preparedness and resilience against emerging threats.

About the National Counterterrorism Strategy

The 2025 National Counterterrorism Strategy is built on five strategic pillars: Prevention, Protection, Preparedness, Response and Recovery, and provides a comprehensive framework to safeguard Trinidad and Tobago's people, infrastructure and economy through domestic collaboration, institutional resilience, and international partnerships.

The Strategy is guided by the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Counterterrorism, which supports coordination among government ministries and agencies in addressing evolving threats. Its priorities include strengthening oversight of the Strategy's implementation, improving national preparedness, addressing vulnerabilities relating to border security and critical infrastructure protection, and aligning counterterrorism-related efforts across ministries and agencies.

Wayne Sturge, M.P.

Minister of Defence

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