



**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

Circular Road, St. Ann's, Port-of-Spain

Telephone: 1(868) 225-4687, 625-9815

Fax: 1(868) 627-6886 E-mail: otp.mail@otp.gov.tt Website: www.otp.tt

OTP: 65/2/5

December 31, 2024

Mr. Brian Caesar
Clerk of the House of Representatives
Office of the Parliament
Parliamentary Complex
Cabildo Building, St. Vincent Street
PORT OF SPAIN

Dear Mr. Caesar,

Re: Statement from Her Excellency Christine Carla Kangaloo, O.R.T.T., President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Declaration of a State of Public Emergency in Trinidad and Tobago.

I am directed by Her Excellency, Christine Carla Kangaloo, O.R.T.T., President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, to forward to you her statement on her decision to declare a public state of emergency on December 30, 2024, which is to be presented to the House of Representatives by the Honourable Mrs. Bridgid Annisette-George, Speaker of the House.

Yours sincerely,

Cheryl-Ann Jackman-Waldron,
Secretary to Her Excellency the President

Secretary to
Her Excellency the President



THE PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

OTP: 65/2/5

December 31, 2024

The Honourable Brigid Annisette-George, M.P.
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Office of the Parliament
Parliamentary Complex
Cabildo Building, St. Vincent Street
PORT OF SPAIN

Honourable Speaker,

In keeping with Section 9(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, I forward herewith to you for presentation to the House of Representatives, a statement setting out the specific grounds on which my decision to declare the existence of a state of public emergency on December 30, 2024, was based.

Sincerely,


Christine Carla Kangaloo, O.R.T.T.,
President

**STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT
SETTING OUT THE SPECIFIC GROUNDS ON WHICH
THE DECISION TO DECLARE THE EXISTENCE OF
A STATE OF PUBLIC EMERGENCY WAS BASED**

***SECTION 9(1) OF THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO***

On Monday December 30, 2024, being satisfied that a public emergency had arisen as the result of the occurrence of action that has been taken, or is immediately threatened, by any person, of such a nature and on so extensive a scale, as to be likely to endanger the public safety, I made a Proclamation declaring that a state of public emergency exists.

Set out hereunder are the specific grounds on which my decision to issue that Proclamation was based.

This statement is made pursuant to section 9(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, which provides inter alia that within three days of the making of the Proclamation, the President shall deliver to the Speaker for presentation to the House of Representatives a statement setting out the specific grounds on which the decision to declare the existence of a state of public emergency was based.

On December 30, 2024, I was informed by Cabinet that in Trinidad and Tobago, there had been sixty-one (61) homicides for the month of December, 2024 and approximately six hundred and twenty-three (623) homicides so far for the year and that additionally, over the past 14 days there had been an increase in the number of violent crimes, leading to the death of individuals, via the use of illegal firearms and in particular firearms of high calibre, including, but not limited to automatic firearms which have led to over twenty (20) homicides in the past 7 days.

Cabinet further informed that within the last 48 hours prior to December 30, 2024, the following two serious criminal activities, involving the use of illegal high-power firearms, took place which endangered the public safety. Cabinet informed that these were only two highlighted examples of the serious criminal activity that is endangering the public's safety in this country, on an extensive scale.

Cabinet informed that the first of the two serious criminal activities occurred on December 28, 2024, at approximately 3:50 p.m. when there was an attempt, outside the Besson Street Police Station to take the life of Calvin Lee, a person with a criminal record and a suspected leader of criminal gangs operating in the Port of Spain area. As Calvin Lee left the stated Police Station, several men armed with automatic firearms ran towards him and started shooting, one person was killed and several 5.56 calibre shells were recovered at the scene, confirming the use of high-powered automatic weapons.

Cabinet informed that the second of the two serious criminal activities occurred on the night of December 29, 2024, when six persons were shot at Prizgar Lands, Laventille, with one (1) person dying at the scene and four (4) persons dying at the Port of Spain General Hospital.

Cabinet informed that arising out of these two incidents, the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) informed the Minister of National Security that intelligence suggested that the latter shooting was a reprisal shooting and killings for the incident where an attempt was made on the life of Calvin Lee. The intelligence of the TTPS informed the Minister of National

Security, who in turn informed the National Security Council that the criminal gangs in East Port of Spain, Laventille, environs and throughout Trinidad and Tobago, were likely to immediately increase their brazen acts of violence in reprisal shootings on a scale so extensive that it threatens persons and will endanger public safety. Cabinet informed that the National Security Council in the circumstances, found it necessary to advise me, through the Honourable Prime Minister, to declare that a public emergency exists.

Having considered the information provided and given the above premises, I was satisfied that action has been taken, or is immediately threatened, by any person, of such a nature and on so extensive a scale, as to be likely to endanger the public safety, to the extent that warranted the declaration of a state of public emergency.


CHRISTINE CARLA KANGALOO, O.R.T.T.

PRESIDENT

December 31, 2024