



# 100+ STEPS

TO A SAFER TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

**Congress of the People  
Crime Reduction Initiative**

**Draft release May 2007**

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## ***Preamble: Can this proposal work?***

The question will very well be asked as to after all of the many failed crime plans and policies that have come and gone, what is it that makes the Congress of the People National Security Task Force and Policy any different than the others.

The COP's will successfully combat crime because it has –

1. The people
2. The policies
3. The plans
4. The political will

Crime is a product of opportunity, and hence, the greater the deterrent, then the less likelihood that the felon will commit that crime, because there is now a greater chance of being caught.

The Congress of the People, based on analyzing proper data, research methodology and empirical testing, has been able to now state the appropriate anti crime strategies, looking at Cost Benefit Analysis, and utilizing limited National Security in the right direction so that it can be used in an effective and efficient manner.

## ***Four Core Principles***

Anyone can propose a strategy. Making it work requires four core principles to be the driving force behind implementation:

### ***Leadership***

The COP in governance will be fully aware, that, unlike others before it, will accept responsibility for the state of crime, as a responsible Government should.

We have no intention to pass the buck, and blame everyone for the state of crime.

Once a Government can show that important concept of leadership by example, and accept responsibility, then it is the first step towards successfully combating crime.

Relevant senior Leaders in National Security must also adopt the same attitude and show leadership by example and also take responsibility for their actions and results, which will include the relevant Congress of the People Ministers, the Police Commissioner and Chief of Defence Staff.

The Congress of the People believes that the National Security forces, including senior personnel and the Prime Minister, are there as a priority to serve and not only to lead.

### ***Good Management***

Due to poor administrative, logistic, and operational structures throughout the Ministry of National Security and all arms of the Protective Services today, the objectives and mission are not being achieved.

Some of the individuals in the Forces who handle the administrative and logistic aspects are not really properly trained or qualified to do this, as they are more operationally inclined. A Congress Government will place much more emphasis in these spheres, as operations without professional administrative and logistical support will not enable the Services to successfully combat crime. We need to free our Protective Services to work smarter rather than harder. We believe this will also enhance the morale and motivation of the troops.

This will incorporate the contracting of the relevant qualified civilians to operate in some departments which are presently being manned by members of the Protective Services.

This system will allow police to do "policing", and will be a major step towards ensuring that all arms of the Protective Services are up to the required strength. There is a shortage of Police Officers in many Divisions, simply because many of them are posted in administrative and new branches, which were not accommodated in the initial establishment of the TTPS.

### ***Measurement of performance***

Good Management will now allow there to be a proper system for measurement of performance, at all levels – By arms of the Protective Services, the relevant Heads, Divisions, and each and every member of the Protective Services.

A Congress Government will put the focus on ensuring that your Protective Services are rewarded based on performance rather than just seniority, which can be the cutting edge to success.

### ***Accountability***

Under the Congress Government's National Security Crime Initiative, we will put in place the tools to measure performance, whereby each and every member of your Protective Services will be accountable for his/ her actions, and can no longer throw blame on others.

## ***Introduction***

### CRIME PREVENTION: THE METHODOLOGY

According to the Department of Criminology, University of Leicester, which is at the forefront in criminological theory in Europe, there are three levels of crime prevention.

#### ***Primary***

"Hardening" the target: crime is a product of opportunity, which means that if the goal seems easy to reach, would-be criminals are more likely to try it. Once you put in place the necessary deterrents, a criminal will be reluctant to commit the crime. The greater the deterrent, then there will be the less likelihood of the crime being committed, simply because of the fear of being caught.

Virtually all crimes are committed because the criminal feels he has a good chance of not being caught, so this primary crime prevention measure is the most critical aspect to reduce crime.

The Congress of the People will address the primary level through law enforcement strategies, inclusive of crime prevention measures, as well as crime detection, which will assist in the apprehension of the criminals. Examples of specific measures include increased patrols, surveillance, use of electronic security, and proper intelligence-gathering.

#### ***Secondary***

This crime reduction concept complements the primary measures, as secondary crime prevention basically involves aspects that will assist possible felons in turning their energies towards other avenues. This includes the provision of proper education, job opportunities, and advice in health, family and moral values, sporting and recreational activities, social activities, and counselling.

Under a Congress Government, all of the social agencies such as the Ministries of Education, Health, Sports and Youth Affairs, Labour, Social Development and Gender Affairs, in collaboration with the relevant NGO's and the private sector, would take part in the development and implementation of the secondary crime prevention strategies.

### ***Tertiary – The Criminal Justice System***

This is also a critical aspect. Today too many criminals slip through the cracks in a poor criminal justice system and are hence "recycled" back into crime. Up to 60% of crimes committed in 2006 were committed by repeat offenders.

Our job will be to plug loopholes which will allow too many criminals to slip through the cracks and re-enter society without being properly convicted or rehabilitated, because of technicalities or a lack of updated laws.

The first line of the criminal justice system is the lead up to and the actual arrest. Ideally, the process should culminate in conviction of the guilty.

Many a felon can slip through the cracks and evade the end line, through legal loopholes in our present system, of which the felons are fully aware of, and which emphasizes the point we made that if the felon feels there is little chance of him being apprehended, and even if he is apprehended, then he feels he can "beat the system" due to our criminal justice loopholes, then there is a greater likelihood that he will attempt to commit the crime.

Some of the systems which cause these loopholes, and will be rectified through the Ministry of Justice are as follows –

- Flaws in the arresting process,
- Flaws in the acquiring of evidence to properly use to convict the felon.
- Police officers being absent to provide evidence against those charged with offences.
- Easy access to bail upon which felons go out to commit further crimes until their trial.

- Police officers acting as prosecutors and being no match at times when they come up against seasoned defence attorneys.
- When some of these police officers become qualified to act as prosecutors, they then leave the system for greener and more fruitful pastures in the law fraternity.

Under the Congress plan, mechanisms will be developed to inspire confidence in the administration of justice. These include legislation to provide for more judges, specialized courts and independent budgets for the judiciary with proper parliamentary oversight.

Over 60 % of crimes committed are by persons who were previously in jail, which means that proper rehabilitation is not taking place in prison.

This will imply that if prisoners are properly rehabilitated, they will not commit more crimes when they leave, and crime can be reduced significantly.

There are many reasons why this cycle continues and why the recidivism rate is so high-

- Lack of opportunities upon leaving prison.
- Lack of utilization of their time in prison to learn a trade or skill so they can become self sufficient without crime.
- A dangerous mixing in the prison system, with petty or first-time young offenders being forced to rub shoulders with hardened criminals.

The Congress of the People will introduce a comprehensive programme at the following levels:

- Rehabilitation of prisoners through retooling relevant to the developmental needs of the country, utilizing professionals that could include outsourcing the necessary experts.
- Professional training and exposure of prisoner officers to enable them to manage this aspect of the rehabilitation programme.

- Provision of resources to NGOs to further the rehabilitation process outside the prison through a referral system with a view to absorption in the workforce.

## PROFILE OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY TASK FORCE PERSONNEL ON THIS PAGE

BRIG J THEODORE

MP G LUCKY

CAPT. G GRIFIFTH

J TONEY

D LAMBERT

## ***100+ Steps to a Safer Trinidad & Tobago***

VISION 2008: The date when crime will be controlled and the criminals will no longer hold our nation under siege.

Based on the strategy and holistic thinking outlined above, we present a brief of the crime fighting initiatives that can be implemented. The 100+ clearly defined steps below are divided into categories for simplicity and ease of reference. The categories represent the range of COP's holistic approach across the three levels of crime prevention. These are the areas that must be addressed to create workable solutions to the existing national security emergency.

Putting Technology to Work

Enforcement

Management and Development of our Services

Training, Facilities & Equipment for the Services

Seeing Justice Through: Trying and Convicting

Breaking the Cycle: Rehabilitation

Breaking the Cycle: Engaging Communities and Other Sectors

Communicating—Inside and Out

## ***Putting Technology to Work***

The bottom line is: right now any criminal with a cell phone and a car is better equipped to violate our security than our Police Forces are to prevent him, arrest him or respond to the citizen's calls. In this 21<sup>st</sup> century, technology is no longer a futuristic concept: we as private citizens use it in dozens of forms every day for our comfort, entertainment, communications and work. It is time for our Protective Services to also put technology to work.

These systems will be operated in a National Security Operation Centre, similar to what is done in Canada [ known as CPIC ], with the major benefits being a drastic reduction in car thefts, car jacking, kidnappings and a police response to emergency calls of less than 10 minutes at most locations throughout the country.

**#1 Equip every Police vehicle with GPS (global positioning system)**—a way to locate exactly where the car is at any given time.

If a crime is reported, a central coordinating centre can immediately identify the nearest Police vehicle and dispatch it to reduce response times.

**#2 Make it mandatory for every new vehicle being purchased to have a GPS tracking system connected to the National Security Operational Centre**, whereby the TT Police Service can trace the location of that vehicle if it is reported stolen or involved in a criminal activity.

This centre will also encompass the real time viewing and recording of Close Circuit Television Cameras placed at strategic positions in cities, towns, high density traffic locations, traffic lights and areas that may be considered high risk [ hot spots]

### #3

#### **Have every police vehicle in radio communication with stations and central coordinating HQ.**

This will allow roaming officers to verify information on the road as well as respond faster to calls for assistance.

### #4

#### **Put all arms of the Protective Services in communication with each other via radio.**

Sometimes you need more than one service.

Example – A natural or man made disaster, or even a major vehicular accident will require units from Ambulance Service, Fire and Police.

The National Information Operations Centre will be able to provide this.

### #5

#### **Computerized crime statistics and reporting. [ COMPSTAT]**

On a daily basis, record all reports of criminal activities. This will help to identify hot spots, changes in trends by location or by time, etc, and help in planning and effective deployment of National Security arms efficiently, and not use crime statistics as a PR gimmick to influence the Nation that you are successfully combating crime, as that is not what COMPSTAT is about.

### #6

#### **Computerized vehicle maintenance and service record.**

This will allow the relevant Unit to be aware when certain vehicles are due for

preventative maintenance either by the date or by the number of miles travelled by that vehicle

### #7

#### **Use of proper technology to crack down on motorists who break the speed limit-** Put radar in police vehicles.

The present concept of Police Officers hiding behind street posts, using a stop watch and signaling their comrade who then runs out in front of the vehicle to stop it, is not only outdated, but also an embarrassment to 21<sup>st</sup> century policing.

In-car systems will also mean that speeding drivers can now also be apprehended

at night.

**#8**

**Use of GPS bracelets on persons who may be deemed a security risk to the State** including recently released offenders, criminal deportees etc.

**#9**

**Computerize all Police stations, and provide Internet access.**

This will be the ideal avenue for ensuring that real time data of any major criminal incident throughout the country will reach the hands of every police officer in every station, in every division, in every vehicle, which will assist in apprehending felons immediately after a crime has been committed.

Additionally, there will now be computerization of all police records so they are easily available to police officers wherever stationed.

### ***Enforcement & Wider Patrol***

The “broken window theory” suggests, for example, if there is an abandoned warehouse and someone throws a stone and breaks one window and it is left unrepaired, it will encourage that individual and others to break all the other windows. Before long, the warehouse will be totally vandalized.

In contrast, if there is a totally vandalized building, and one window is repaired, then there is a stronger likelihood that the warehouse will be repaired, piece by piece.

A similar concept will be implemented in COP’s approach to enforcement. The minor offenses that have been previously ignored will be addressed to send the message that it is no longer acceptable to commit crimes because others have done so and escaped unscathed.

## **#10 Immediately implement a charge for impaired driving for drivers who are caught drinking and driving.**

Previous governments have procrastinated for years and we are left in an embarrassing situation whereby we have no statistics to show how many people have been killed due to intoxicated drivers.

## **#11 Change legislation which currently allows drunk drivers to refuse Breathalyzer testing.**

They can and now will be stopped for impaired driving. The Officer making the charge will then ensure that the individuals in question cannot drive for 24 hours after being stopped.

## **#12 Apprehend drivers who violate the speed limit, and not allow them to proceed or drive for 24 hours.**

Many persons break the speed limit as they are aware that they may not be caught, they are aware of where the speed traps are usually, and even if they are caught, all that will be done is to be given a ticket and they are allowed to proceed. There is no inconvenience, which makes it "acceptable" to some to continue to break the speed limit.

## **#13 Enforce the liquor laws and access to night clubs by minors.**

The recent 'minors allowed in nightclub' incident did not take place overnight, and is certainly not isolated, but was as a result of Government after Government turning a blind eye to what has been a catalyst for juvenile delinquency in this country, which is that not one single night club owner, or bartender has ever been charged or convicted for allowing minors to have access to such establishments and allowing them to purchase and consume alcohol in such establishment.

**A Liquor License Inspector Department will be implemented**

**to visit, investigate and close establishments for selling alcohol and allowing entry to minors.**

It is to be noted that the COP stressed this point just weeks prior to the above mentioned incident.

**#14 Reestablish the Police Marine Branch**, which will allow the police to conduct maritime exercises and provide coverage at the ports of entry and other areas not so designated, and work in tandem with the Coast Guard.

**#15 Conduct greater naval surveillance around our shores.**  
This is our first line of defence, and is being breached based on poor naval surveillance. Once this line is breached, it becomes and at times impossible for the internal forces to intercept the illegal entry of weapons, guns, and immigrants.

**#16 The strength of the Municipal Police is to be increased**, both in the Cities and Boroughs, so that they would play a greater role in crime prevention and deal with routine matters, Such as unauthorized parking vending, that are presently handled by TTPS.

**#17 Distribute Coast Guard stations around strategic positions around all of our shores.**

Successive previous Governments have acquired elaborate and cumbersome patrol vessels and not taken into account that the majority of these vessels are placed in one area [Staubles Bay]. As a result, the Coast Guard is less effective. Several installations should be established around all high-threat areas, complete with the vessel patrol presence. There are no installations on the North Coast. It may take over an hour

for Coast Guard to respond to incidents along most of the East and South Coast because they are primarily stationed in the West Coast.

The COP concept will be to have several Coast Guard stations at strategic locations, with each installation having fast inceptor vessels for immediate response to distress calls and for interception of other vessels entering our shores involved in illegal activities.

The three 90 meter vessels costing over \$ 2 billion will be virtually useless when such similar fast flat bottom vessels with illegal intent, penetrate our naval defences and get into our shoreline where the water level is low.

## **#18      A more scientific approach in our Intelligence Department**

The Intelligence Department is no longer just a cloak and dagger unit.

Intelligence should become eyes and ears on the streets and should turn information of potential criminal misconduct into preventive action or more effective investigation.

The COP will place greater emphasis on using undercover agents deep in the underworld, which would provide the best form of Intelligence gathering.

## **#19      Make it virtually impossible for a kidnapper to benefit from committing that type of crime.**

Using the concept that crime is a product of opportunity, and criminals would commit a crime because of the possibility that he may derive, we would implement policies similar to what is used in North America where kidnapping is non-existent, and have operational procedures which will increase the deterrent, as well as ensuring that it will be logistically impossible for a kidnapper to acquire and/or use the ransom demanded if a kidnapping takes place.

## ***Management and Development of our Services***

### **#20**

#### **Get the Police to do policing –**

Free the forces to do the work they are trained for, and not the day to day administration and logistics work.

This is similar to what is done in North America and Europe, whereby civilians are hired to do the administrative, financial and logistical work and which will allow the National Security forces to work smarter rather than harder, and will assist in reducing the shortage of our Police personnel who are not on the streets.

This will go beyond enhancing their effectiveness, as it will also definitely enhance their morale and motivation.

### **#21**

#### **Promotion - Measurement based on performance, and not just seniority.**

This system has affected the morale and performance of all arms of the Protective Services for decades in our country.

Many an officer, after just being promoted, believes that he has little chance for another promotion because he is no a junior officer in that rank and needs to "wait his turn "; hence his zeal to perform to an optimum level will decrease.

A foolproof system to measurement of performance will be done, and once that take place, The concept of measurement of performance will ensure that officers will be promoted primarily on performance rather than years of service, which will also ensure that each and every officer in each and every arm of the protective Service will now be inclined and even forced to now perform as his performance is being measure4d, upon which is measured positively, he will be promoted accordingly.

## #22

### **Preventative maintenance of equipment and vehicles, vessels and aircraft.**

If the logistic support is not provided for the National Security personnel, he cannot operate.

A comprehensive preventative maintenance system will take place, which will eliminate vehicles being 'cannibalized' for other vehicles to acquire parts, as well as ensuring that vehicles are being used for the area and responsibility that they were supplied for, and not for personal uses.

## #23

### **Restructuring of the Ministry of National Security, and implementation of a Ministry of Justice.**

Based on the demands and immense responsibility placed on a Government in this country to provide Trinidadians and Tobagonians with their most fundamental right, which is that of safety and security, it has now become critical that a radical restructuring process take place.

The Ministry of National Security will continue to operate to provide the critical needs of crime prevention, crime detection and apprehension.

A new Ministry, known as the Ministry of Justice will deal specifically with the criminal justice system and will focus on tertiary crime prevention (all the stages after arrest through to conviction, rehabilitation and probation).

## #24

### **Conduct mandatory annual medical and fitness tests for all members of the Protective Services**

This will ensure that each and every officer throughout the service is of the fitness standard required to perform his duty as it relates to his field, and will also ensure that we are properly looking after the welfare of our servicemen to prevent any one of them operating in an environment that they should not have entered or participated in due to his/ her medial status.

**#25**

**Conduct mandatory DNA tests for all new recruits throughout the Protective Services.**

This will act both as a deterrent for possible felons attempting to infiltrate into our Protective Services, as well as assisting the Police to verify whether any member of the Protective Services was involved in a major criminal activity.

**#26**

**Non-interference: The Government will not impose crime fighting policies on the Police Service, but will engage the Service in open dialogue, to ensure the appropriate crime plans are being implemented.**

It is the role of the Government to implement the policies, and for the Police to operationalise and enforce it.

**#27**

**Thorough Human Resource Study will be conducted and immediate steps will be taken to have all stations appropriately staffed to allow the officers to effectively carry out their duties.**

**#28**

**The status of the Special Reserve Arm of the Police Service will be regularized so that the officers will be employed in keeping with SRP Regulations.**

**#29**

**Police Officers will be recognized for their duties and efforts and given opportunities for upward mobility and to self improvement**

The system of promotion will be thoroughly examined to make sure every officer is treated equally and given every opportunity for advancement.

**#30**

**Ensure better distribution of transport facilities for Regiment;** especially ensure that troops have immediate access to reach any area of armed conflict against the State.

**#31**

**Ensure that each soldier in the Regiment has his required issue of equipment, especially a personal weapon.**

This is not the case at present, and caused many problems during the attempted coup in 1990.

**#32**

**Ensure that each member of the Protective Services is aware of his/ her role and function in the eventually of a natural or man made disaster.**

This is inclusive of where they should go and what they must do in the event of an armed insurrection against the State.

During the attempted coup in 1990, thousands of soldiers and police officers did not go to their respective camps, which caused a logistic nightmare and hampered accountability of troops and supplies.

**#33**

**Immediately commence a Commission of Inquiry into the events prior to and during the attempted coup in 1990.**

This is not for a witch hunt of those who may be to blame for such an event, but rather to ensure that our Armed Forces are aware of what may have been done incorrectly, so that we would learn from the tactical, logistic and operational mistakes during that period, inclusive of poor Intelligence gathering, no proper Command operational Coordination Centre and hence poor communication between the different arms of the Protective Services.

**#34**

**Make it more attractive for persons to apply to the Protective Services and the Defence Force.**

This is inclusive of recruitment, retention and promotion.

**#35**

**Provide comprehensive training for arms of the Defence Force, Police and Fire Services in Improvised Explosive Device training.**

This is severely lacking at present, whereby only a handful of personnel are properly trained in this procedure, at times the Fire and Police Service has to rely on a certain arm of the Defence Force to deal with bomb threats.

Upgraded training of those presently in this field is also mandatory.

**#36**

**Place stronger emphasis on establishment of cadets, scouts, girl guides and similar youth organizations**

This would act as a feeder for Police and Defence Force and will be a great asset in molding youths in our country

**#37**

**Looking after the welfare of the Police Service –**

Upgrade the Police Social and Welfare Dept, so that the needs and concerns of the Police Service are properly looked at.

## ***Training, Facilities & Equipment for the Services***

### **#38**

#### **Establishment of a National Security Protective Services Training Academy.**

A proper training environment is needed to ensure that our personnel in the Protective Services achieve the required basic standard of competency. At present, each arm of the Protective Services improvises in their training which is totally unacceptable.

It is also unacceptable to use the operational environment as a training ground, as this endangers both the trainees and the public.

In Toronto, every Police Officer must come through a similar Academy in the Waterloo Regional Police Service, which has assisted in rooting out any individual with a criminal background and ensure that when they are trained, they can perform at the optimum level, which has gone a long way towards Toronto being one of the safest cities in the Americas.

This is the one and only method to ensure that our nation produces professional and world classed officers at all levels of the Protective Services, and is more critical to implement in our country at this time than any other Academy, stadium, and building or upgraded port facility.

### **#39**

#### **Improved Recruiting process – Share the National Security Protective Services Training across all the arms of the Defence Force and Protective Services.**

This means assigning personnel from, and sending trainees from, the following:

- Regiment
- Coast Guard
- Police Service
- Prisons Service
- Fire Services
- Private Security

- Estate Police Association personnel

This Academy will finally ensure that a thorough recruiting process will take place to ensure that the relevant investigation will reveal those applying for such positions, and also to ensure that the proper recruiting procedure will ensure that the appropriate persons are not only selected but are also properly trained

## **#40 Provide a proper indoor and outdoor shooting range for all the protective services.**

It is totally unacceptable that policemen, firemen, sailors, prison officers and soldiers are currently issued with firearms and there are no proper shooting ranges for them during recruit training and during their enlistment.

## **#41 Provide a swimming pool with the mechanisms to properly train all arms of the Protective Services**

[police, fire, coast guard and army], in such scenarios which may warrant their involvement in aquatic search and rescue or any other type of operation.

## **#42 Provide a simulation training theatre for armed conflict and for the training for use of minimum force.**

This entails a theatre showing three dimensional videos of different scenarios which the trainee of the Armed Forces may encounter.

The trainee analyzes what is the most effective yet minimal use of force, and has it escalated as the threat intensifies.

The range is as follows-

Verbal dialogue, baton, pepper spray, stun gun, or firearm.

If an officer makes the wrong judgment call and draws a firearm too soon, then it may result in a death that may have been avoided, and likewise, if there was the situation when he should have drawn his firearm to protect himself or an innocent civilian, and he hesitates, then it may also result in their deaths.

Such a theatre would keep him properly trained for such different eventualities by

giving different simulation scenarios.

A facility such as this will allow our Police Officers to be better prepared to deal with similar matters in the public space, and also avoiding unnecessary violence and deaths.

## #43

### **Train the relevant personnel in The Protective Services in defensive driving.**

This will become mandatory for the obvious reason to minimize the unacceptable number of vehicle accidents involving such vehicles, and which will reduce the loss of lives and injuries both to the Protective Service personnel and civilians , and also the large number of such vehicles being forced to be grounded because of poor defensive driving , which in turn affects the Services form performing die to a shortage of vehicles

## #44

### **Proper training of the Police and Army in cordon and searching.**

Including searching of buildings by using a mock building to practice raids and procedures, and searching of vehicles.

## #45

### **Road Blocks –**

Train the forces to operate road blocks effectively and safely, yet with minimum inconvenience to the public.

Similar to how the UK forces operate, the concept of road blocks involves a fast, immediate operation, after which those involved in the road block then move to another location.

Once a road block remains in one place for a few hours, it does nothing other than inconvenience the motorists, as the traffic congestion gets so long, it allows the felons to divert, be aware that there is a road block by their comrades relaying the message them, or by the lone line, it allows them to time to remove whatever illegal item they may possess.

It will be such training as this that will incorporate future successful road blocks with minimum inconvenience.

## #46

### **Provide proper fitness facilities for the Protective Services-**

. Mentally and physically fit officers always make more professional officers. At present, there are no proper gym facilities in any of the Armed Forces, and the Protective Services Training Academy will incorporate this, inclusive of obstacle courses.

## #47 – 68

The Protective Services Training Academy will also have the following training facilities implemented, which has been virtually absent or badly lacking for years, and which has resulted in our National Security personnel not being able to perform at their optimum level.

Such policies through these facilities will incorporate real-life skills and scenarios into officer training so that all the forces are better equipped to deal with the realities.

The important and concept of the below mentioned will be dealt with in further detail during our campaign.

This means training on:

- **Criminal investigation procedures**, inclusive of making use of forensic crime scene investigation techniques
- **Ethics**
- **Community Policing Training**
- **Police Vehicle Operations**
- **Use of force**
- **Arrest**
- **Search and seizure with and without warrants**
- **Drug Lab detection**
- **Fraud**
- **Domestic Violence**
- **Organized crime**
- **Missing persons search**
- **Crime Scene Protection and Investigation [ CSI]**
- **Customer Service & Public Relations** [ getting to work hand in hand with the citizens and hence building the trust]
- **Tactical Communication**

- **Weapon training**
- **Close Quarter Battle Simulation training for possible armed conflict**
- **Unarmed combat**
- **Hot pursuit training [vehicle training]**
- **Traffic Control**
- **Specialized training in middle management and senior management**
- **Leadership training**

**#69**

**Appropriate use of foreign expertise—train the trainers**

Instead of importing “foreign used” police officers to do

policing, the COP will contract highly qualified instructors to train and guide our personnel, and update our present techniques at all levels so that our trainers can then take over and be the head instructors.

**#70**

**Appropriate use of Security Advisors.**

It is totally unacceptable that a country will contract a foreign University Professor versed in criminology, which will cost the taxpayer over \$ 80 million, when in that same country, we have persons with the same track record and qualifications in Senator Professor Ramesh Deosaran, who could have provided the Government with the exact plans and recommendations at \$80 million less.

The COP intends to utilize our local talent, and only have foreign input if they have the track record, not in consultancy, but in operational effectiveness.

**#71**

**Rebuilding, refurbishment and repairs of stations/camps.**

# #72

**Provide an adequate supply of uniforms and equipment to the Protective Services on a timely basis.**

# #73

**Military training and preparation for dealing with armed conflict situations which are more likely to occur.**

Since our Independence, our Army has placed the emphasis on conventional warfare, which involves a war scenario on a battle field.

However, such scenarios in the 21 st century have now become virtually extinct, as armed conflicts now involve mostly urban combat, known as Counter Revolutionary Warfare.

Bearing this in mind, the COP intends to drastically alter the present military training to deal with such armed conflicts.

Even though the art of conventional warfare is an important part of military training for military tactics, the emphasis in training will now entail more counter-revolutionary warfare training for the Army, rather than focus on conventional warfare training -

This will incorporate patrols, cordon and search, and other aspects of urban security training, such as FIBUA [ Fighting in Built up Areas], and DIBUA [ Defence in Built up Areas]

## ***Seeing Justice Through: Trying and Convicting***

# #74

**Plug the loopholes in the system from the start of the process**

**(arrest) to the actual time when the sentence is passed.**

At present the felon is beating the system due to the loopholes. This encourages him to take greater chances to commit crime, with the belief that even if he is caught, he can beat the system and not be incarcerated.

**#75**

**Establishment of a victims support unit.**

This must be established throughout the country, with special emphasis on those persons who have been victims of kidnappings and sexual offences.

**Laws must also be enacted to provide for adequate support for victims of crime.**

**#76**

**Use police officers to do policing, and not to prosecute.**

Hire properly trained legal staff to prosecute cases. Not only are our officers at a disadvantage against highly trained defence lawyers, but they are also taken away from their primary duties.

**#77**

**Rescue the young and first-time offenders before it is too late.**

Stop having petty first time young offenders being forced to rub Shoulders" with hardened criminals in detention centres and prisons.

**#78**

**Swift Justice-**

**a. Remand yard courts** - In order to reduce the wait times to hear cases, there will be the establishment of remand yard courts, and instead of paying millions of dollars to transport prisoners to magistrate courts, magistrates can now be brought to the remand yard to have the matters heard.

**b. Increase in judges.**

Amend existing laws to provide for an increase in the number of judges so that more courts will be available to deal with criminal prosecutions.

## #79

### **Remove backlogs of cases –**

#### **a. Extend working hours by operating courts on shifts.**

This will remove the back log and long delay for cases to be heard, and will also incorporate a night court

b. **Diversifying the courts** - such as specialized matters will be redirected to a family court or a juvenile court

#### **c. Move traffic offences out of the court and have it dealt with by the Transport authorities**

## #80

### **Make kidnapping a capital offence.**

This is one of the three methods used in North America to eliminate kidnappings by increasing the deterrent, with the others already being discussed which involves making it logistically impossible to collect the ransom , and also making it just as impossible to benefit from the ransom by not being able to utilize the cash.

## #81

### **Enact the long-awaited DNA legislation to give prosecutors the power to use DNA evidence to charge and convict.**

## #82

### **Conduct the Witness Protection Programme in keeping with the regulations for its operation and closely supervised by a designated body.**

## #83

### **Provide better protection for witnesses.**

#### **Create a specific Division in the Witness Protection programme.**

At present, many persons are skeptical to take part in this programme because of the failure of the State to provide the

adequate security for them and their family.

This matter will be dealt with, which will ensure that possible witnesses do not refrain from providing that much needed evidence.

**#84**

**Immediate implementation on prison reform.**

This will provide for restorative justice programmes, training and education of inmates, as well as to deal with abuse of prisoners and overcrowding.

**#85**

**Establish separate Remand and Forensic Centres in the north, the south, and in Tobago.**

**#86**

**Enact legislation to provide for treatment of addicts and alternatives to prison sentences.**

**#87**

**Construct a modern prison facility in Tobago.**

The facility there is merely a holding bay

**#88**

**Provide suitable vessels for the Prison Service to facilitate movement of staff and inmates between the island prison and the mainland.**

***Breaking the Cycle: Rehabilitation***

**#89**

**Stop the “recycling “of criminals.**

Convicted offenders may emerge from prison as even more hardened criminals, due to lack of opportunities. The authorities will ensure that the time spent in prison will be to have relevant skills taught skills matched to the development needs of the country. This would mean offenders can re-enter society as self sufficient, contributing members—not only reducing crime rate and recidivism, but breaking the poverty cycle for their families as well.

**#90**

**Enact modern rules to deal with the Prison conditions.**

This will assist in proper rehabilitation and a drastic reduction in the recidivism rate.

**#91**

**Provide professional training and exposure of prisoner officers to enable them to manage this aspect of the rehabilitation programme.**

**#92**

**Provide resources to NGOs to further the rehabilitation process outside the prison, through a referral system with a view to absorption in the workforce.**

**#93**

**Understanding the problem by in depth interviews of prisoners-**

As done in the United Kingdom, a comprehensive research will be conducted on prisoners sentenced for major offences, which allows the authorities to understand their thought process.

By understanding the mindset of criminals and the factors that caused them to commit crimes, more relevant deterrents can be implemented to break the cycle and prevent new criminals being developed.

# #94

**Establish half-way houses to cater for persons who have been deported.**

This will give them an opportunity to find suitable accommodations or make contact with relatives, attend a training course or secure employment and thereby provide an alternative to criminal activity.

## ***Breaking the Cycle: Engaging Communities and Other Sectors***

# #95

**Establish the community-based crime prevention strategies based on collaboration with businessmen, community organizations, and neighborhood action groups.**

Community officers will assist in implementing plans to ensure a crime free environment. As distinct from combating crime physically, community mobilization will ensure that persons are re-directed from committing criminal acts in the first place, e.g. through counseling or other activities. Officers would deal with:

- Sick/ Injured persons
- Juvenile complaints
- Domestic disputes
- Missing persons
- Noise complaints
- Property damage
- Neighbour disputes
- Driving complaints
- Other domestic complaints

# #96

**Disaster Preparedness – Crisis Management for all natural and man made disasters. Institute a disaster preparedness plan.**

This will involve ensuring that the Protective Services are properly trained, have a good understanding of each department's role and function, proper coordination and communication for any natural or man made disaster

. The plan should also train and prepare citizens in what to do in the event of

disaster. This includes establishing a Crisis Management Coordinating Centre.

**#97**

**Improvement of the Private Security Industry-**

There are tens of thousands of private security officers in this country; however it is difficult to have them assist in law enforcement as there is very little to ensure that at least a basic degree of training and qualification is required for them to hold such posts in the many Security Companies in this country.

Laws will be enforced to ensure that the standard of security companies and their employees are adequate to act as a complementary force to support the Police Service.

***Communicating—Inside and Out***

**#98**

**Customer Service Training for members of the Protective Services –**

The catalyst for crime reduction in New York City in the in mid 90s was the ability to transform the image of the Police Service of being a hostile, aggressive, unapproachable force whereby the citizens were intimidated by them and also did not trust them, to one where there became trustworthiness and the ability by the citizens of New York to believe that the Police were there to serve and not intimidate.

Once that element of trust can be generated between Police and citizen, it makes for an unbeatable team against the criminal elements.

The COP's operational policy will place heavy emphasis on this aspect of policing, whereby we will ensure that every member of the Protective Services is trained and versed in the importance of dealing with each member of the public and the media in a

professional, yet courteous manner if required.

**#99**

**Establishment of a National Security Information and Operations Centre.**

This will not only help to ensure that the Police respond to any distress call, but a response can now be achieved in less than 10 minutes in most areas of the country.

This is similar to CPIC in Canada, however, apart from just being an information, this will also act as a Joint Operations Command Centre for any co operation between different arms of the Protective Services, and will allow for a number of factors such as accountability of the whereabouts of Police vehicles, and provisions of data to officers on the streets of any vehicle or suspect , as this centre will have a comprehensive data base, whereby relevant information is also fed throughout to the Police Stations on a timely basis

**#100**

**Establish a more reliable and efficient Police Complaint Division**

It is critical for citizens to have trust in the Police Service, as it is the citizen who will provide the Police with information required to combat crime. If there is no trust, and this information is not forthcoming then it is almost impossible to solve the crime.

There is the perception that the Police Division is a law unto itself, and by establishing a more reliable Police Complaint Division

**#101**

**Issue a Protective Services Annual Report to the public.  
The COP Government will show accountability to the people.**

This includes providing an accurate and non-cosmetic annual report of the activities, success and shortcomings of each arm of our Protective Services. In times of peace, Military Units must justify their existence and show to the citizens that taxpayers are getting value for their dollar. The same applies to any major private company, which is accountable to its investors and shareholders. The

Ministry of National Security must also deploy its forces and be accountable to the public for so doing. Each Protective Service must provide appropriate information including organizational charts, annual activities, upcoming events, justification for expenses, and analysis of each major type of crime with comparisons to the previous years.

**#102**

**Ensure that Ministers responsible for National Security do not remain silent and distant from the Police Service but will keep the public informed of developments to improve the performance of Police Officers and will reveal the results.**

## **References**

The establishments used to ensure that we have been pointed in the right direction in developing this plan are as follows-

### **Technical Aspects**

Department of Criminology , University of the West Indies, upon which there is a vast amount of data to be obtained, which has not been properly used by previous Governments to understand and hence successfully combat crime.

Department of Criminology, University of Leicester, which is at the forefront in criminological theory in the United Kingdom. Their research has allowed us to ensure that crime is successfully combated from a scientific perspective and just perception, hence we can ascertain what the direct threats are so that limited National Security resources can be utilized in an effective and efficient manner.

This entails data gathering, research methodology and empirical testing based on which we can know which one of the hundreds of crime initiatives are required. If one does not know exactly what the problem is, then the resources will be misdirected.

### **Tactical Aspects**

Giuliani and Partners, New York – This source has assisted us with getting first hand insight into effective crime fighting in the 21st century. Major crimes in this city dropped by 63 % and murders by 54 % in less than two years.

Ontario Provincial Police- This agency is not limited to urban crime fighting. They apply a range of crime fighting strategies to a variety of environments, which are also applicable to Trinidad and Tobago.

## **Contact Us**

*For more information on the National Crime Reduction Initiative or to meet with a member of the Congress National Security Team, please contact Congress of the People Media at [congressmedia@gmail.com](mailto:congressmedia@gmail.com), or contact Captain Gary Griffith via the Congress Operations Centre at 672-COP1.*