



PARLIAMENT
REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Ms. Ramona Ramdial, MP
Member for Couva North

23 May 2016

The Honourable Dr. Keith Rowley
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
13-15 St Clair Avenue
Port-of-Spain.

VIA MAIL AND HAND DELIVERY

Dear Prime Minister:

Re: Request for Meeting to discuss Crime Surge in Central Trinidad

I write in reference to my letter to your Minister of National Security dated 17 May 2016 which is attached for your consideration. In said letter, I invited the Minister to attend a meeting with security service heads and Members of Parliament for Central Trinidad to discuss the recent upsurge in crime in the area and to hold a public meeting to discuss crime in the area. The Minister has not yet responded to my request.

Had your Minister met with us and the relevant stakeholders as requested, we could have avoided the controversy and political rhetoric which dominated Prime Minister Question Time on Friday afternoon when the topic of joint police-army patrols was raised.

Nevertheless, I would like to thank you for your effort to ensure that the joint patrols were deployed to the Couva area. My constituents inform me that after our questions were raised in Parliament that the patrols were visible in the community Friday night. I am relieved to finally see boots on the ground.

As responsible Members of Parliament, the Central MPs always seek the protection of our constituents particularly in these dark days when it seems the criminals somehow have the upper hand. I am sure you are aware that there was a well attended peace march in the area early Saturday morning. Hundreds of people walked against crime. My constituents are calling for the Minister to become more active in the exercise of his duties.

In this regard, I write to ask you to direct your Minister to conduct two meetings in Central Trinidad which I believe are crucial to the fight against crime:

Constituency Office: | Tel: (868) 672-2206
LP# 436 Southern Main Road, Chase Village | Fax: (868) 665-5140
Carapichaima | Email: couva_north@live.com



Ms. Ramona Ramdial, MP

Member for Couva North

1. A meeting with the Central Constituency Members of Parliament including myself, MP Fazal Karim, MP Ganga Singh, MP Rudranath Indarsingh, MP Tim Gopeesingh, MP Suruj Rambachan with invitations also going to the Commissioner of Police, the Head of Defence Force, the regional heads of the Police Service and Defence Force as well as any other person with operational responsibility for the joint patrols which are now taking place.
2. A public meeting at which constituents of the Central Constituencies may attend to be informed and ask questions about the Government's plans and efforts to resolve the surge in crime. As you are aware it is often our citizens who know what works best and where the criminals are located.

I am sure that you can see the value in holding such meetings in as short a time frame as possible.

I know you are very busy, but it may be worthwhile for you to attend and discuss the problems facing our constituents. I would like to remind you that when the Leader of the Opposition was Prime Minister she was known to visit hotspot communities to hold meetings with residents to seek their input on crime fighting measures.

Looking forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

Hon. Ramona Ramdial
Member of Parliament

c.c. Member of Parliament for Chaguanas West
Member of Parliament for Chaguanas East
Member of Parliament for Couva South
Member of Parliament for Caroni East
Member of Parliament for Tabaquite