



Leader of the Opposition

Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago

24 August 2016

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

Dear Honourable Prime Minister,

Re: CRIME CRISIS

I trust this letter meets you in continued good health as we welcome your recent announcement indicating that your doctors have declared you medically fit. Health challenges are indeed cause for concern but, all's well that ends well.

I take this opportunity to write to your good self on a matter of national concern, namely, the crime situation in our country. Undoubtedly, you will agree that the safety and security of our citizenry and residents is of paramount importance demanding an intensified effort on all fronts to combat the scourge of criminality.

Despite your Government's best efforts to date, crime in our country is spiralling dangerously out of control. Like so many others, the Opposition is very concerned about this escalation in criminal activity. Both constituents and non-constituents alike are calling and emailing Opposition MPs every day with shocking personal stories about their experiences with the criminal element whilst the media headlines on the crime situation continue unabated. The life, limb and property of everyone living in our country is imperilled as the criminals are merciless in their rampage even when it comes to snuffing out the lives of innocent children. Further, our international image is being sorely tarnished impacting adversely on economic/investment opportunities.

In this context, Honourable Prime Minister:

- (i) You may want to consider assuming the mantle of the Ministry of National Security for, despite the fact that you have endeavoured to strengthen that Ministry by placing three Ministers in same, the result leaves much too much to be desired;
- (ii) An urgent meeting is requested with your good self and members of our respective national security teams so that we can engage in non-partisan dialogue on a way forward to combat serious crime. I hope this meeting will blossom into a joint anti-crime initiative informed by representatives from both sides of the bench and, with the input of key national security stakeholders.

During my term as Prime Minister, you may recall that several joint Government-Opposition meetings were held with the goal of developing and implementing anti-crime initiatives. I hope we can continue this spirit of cooperation in your term in office, especially with regard to such an urgent matter as escalating crime.

I sincerely hope you will accept our offer to work together in the best interest of the nation as a whole.

I look forward to your prompt response.

Respectfully,

Kamla Persad-Bissessar, SC, MP

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