

■ Support for acting CoP

## Business groups welcome Benjamin

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BUSINESS groups have welcomed Parliament's approval of DCP Junior Benjamin as acting Commissioner of Police and yesterday expressed willingness to work with him.

Chief executive officer of the Trinidad and Tobago Coalition of Services Industries Daren Lee Sing said, 'The TTCSI welcomes our new commissioner. The TTCSI represents associations, chambers, and affiliates who yearn for a safer Trinidad and Tobago, which allows them to continue doing business successfully.'

He said in a WhatsApp message to the *Express*, 'Whatever assistance the Commissioner needs, the TTCSI, its board of directors, and management are ready to advocate amongst its members and all services businesses to effect progress.'

Lee Sing described it as 'day one of holding down the hardest assignment in our country' for Benjamin.

President of the Chaguanas Chamber of Commerce Baldath Maharaj said the business sector hoped

Benjamin took a strategic, intelligence-driven approach to crime fighting.

'Crime remains one of the most serious challenges affecting businesses and communities, particularly in Central Trinidad, where criminal activity has hurt commercial operations and discouraged investment. The business sector would like Commissioner Benjamin to take a strategic, intelligence-driven approach to crime fighting that prioritises efficiency, accountability, and measurable results,' said Maharaj in response to *Express* enquiries.

He recalled that suspended police commissioner Erla Harewood-Christopher 'made it a priority to engage with the Chaguanas Chamber of Commerce in her first public meeting'.

'We strongly urge Commissioner Benjamin to do the same immediately, allowing him to outline his plans while also hearing directly from business owners on the challenges they face,' stated Maharaj via WhatsApp.

He said the public must be able to see clear, quantitative crime reduction targets such as decreases in serious crime, improved detection rates, and faster response times.

'We expect Commissioner Benjamin to set these targets and report to the country on his progress. Citizens and businesses need confidence that law enforcement is delivering real results, not just making statements,' he said.

Maharaj was of the opinion that massive roadblocks, especially during peak hours, did little, and inconvenienced law-abiding citizens.

'Instead, we need proper intelligence gathering and targeted operations to go after criminals where they operate. Developed nations rarely rely on random roadblocks, yet their policing strategies are far more effective. T& T must modernise its approach by using technology, intelligence, and community cooperation to dismantle criminal networks instead of simply disrupting daily life for businesses and commuters,' suggested Maharaj.

He said there was an urgent need to restore public trust in the T& T Police Service (TTPS) which he believed could only be achieved through transparency, consistent enforcement of the law, and a firm stance against corruption within the Police Service.

'The Chaguanas Chamber of Commerce is ready to engage with Commissioner Benjamin and work towards a safer, more secure environment for businesses and the wider population. The time for real, results-driven policing is now,' said Maharaj.