

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The issue of public transparency is paramount... Transparency in the process boosts public trust"

E-mail or old-fashioned regular mail? We will print your contributions. Please remember your letters will not be published without your name and address.

Manage police issues better

DOES focusing on the symptom have any real value? Currently, almost all entities are concentrating on sick leave regarding policemen.

The minister of Homeland Security, an ex-policeman who was co-host of a local television programme and who left the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) with the rank of senior superintendent, is reportedly saying that some police officers are abusing the sick leave entitlement.

Whether this is so or not, taking undue sick leave when one is not really sick is undoubtedly an abuse of the privilege. This begs the question: what did said minister do regarding "unauthorised" sick leave whilst in the service?

The real issue is: why are police officers taking sick leave when they are purportedly not sick? Is it that the job is so risky that they would prefer to be away, with pay, from the job?

Suggestions were made by a previous commissioner of police to use psychometric testing to discern the fit of a police officer with the job requirements. Undue protests by certain entities resulted in this initiative seemingly being abandoned.

Which entity is managing police officers who seem more timely with transporting their children or loved ones, rather than being on the job? Is it any wonder that detection and convictions are atrociously low?

Almost all police officers seem resistant to having body cameras when searching for an alleged criminal. Yet more body cameras are budgeted or requested. What is the value?

There is supposedly an officer in charge of every police station, as well as a police administration entity, which has a commissioner and deputy commissioners, among others. What are they doing? Have they "retired" on the job, only to be seen for photo shoots?

What is the role of the Human Resources unit in the TTPS? Are they really managing the policemen? Have they discussed any issue with the Commissioner? Have they reached out to the Employer's Consultative Association for advice? Have they made any recommendations regarding the absence of police officers as prosecutors in court matters?

Have they evaluated

the ability of a police officer to be a prosecutor, if he is not legally trained? Have they recommended a separate legal unit, with attorneys, for prosecutions, knowing that the defendant will usually have an attorney? Has the Industrial Court been engaged or asked for its recommendations? Has the Judiciary been consulted regarding prosecutions or what should be done regarding non-appearances in court?

Over the years, the TTPS has been seen as inefficient and corrupt, yet there seems to be no tangible efforts being made by "experts" from institutions of higher learning, psychologists, criminologists, non-governmental organisations, and the general public to assist it in its efforts to become honest and honourable. Is the TTPS being considered as the black sheep of society, rather than one of its protectors?

It is true that the TTPS complains about its working environment—such as the need for better police stations, proper working vehicles, functioning security cameras and use of technology. Policemen have been so beaten upon that they may have lost motivation.

Rather than simply looking at/agonising over sick leave, the

minister should look at the TTPS and its seeming shortcomings because Trinbagonians presumably do not have much respect for policemen. Pay attention to why Trinbagonians believe the TTPS seems valueless, except at ceremonial openings.

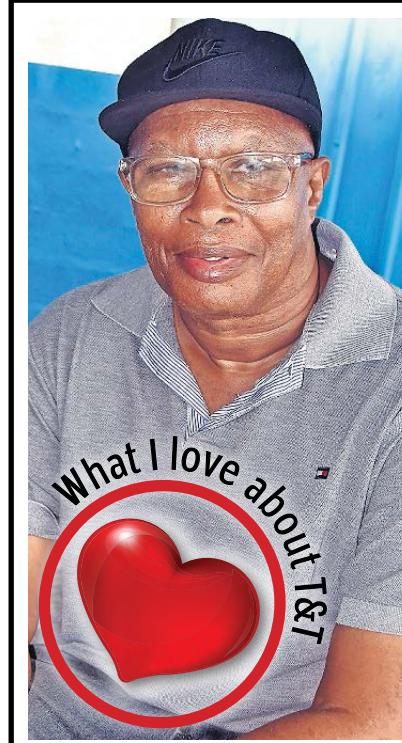
Why is the phrase "We don't have any vehicles" so common at police stations? Why are almost all police stations "closed", especially on evenings? Why are policemen usually unavailable when requested by the public?

Sick leave, valid or not, is just symptomatic of the ills of the TTPS, so addressing this aspect of the job is not of much value if the source of the issue is ignored.

What is the role of the Police Complaints Authority? What is the value of the Police Service Commission? Has any criminologist, industrial relations practitioner or attorney been consulted regarding the bad image of the TTPS?

The relevant authorities should assist and not desist from their responsibilities. Let maturity and good sense prevail now that "fresh eyes" are looking at the TTPS.

Who will police the police? **Harjoon Heeralal**
Carapichaima



MANY AREAS TO EXPLORE: Anderson Williams, a welder, told the Express: "Trinbago is just more than two islands surrounded by the turquoise Caribbean Sea. There are many areas to explore like the Gasparee Caves, many beaches to relax by with family and friends, and culinary delights to enjoy like doubles, with bake and shark being my favourite. I love our national instrument, the steelpan, having grown up close to NLCB Fonclare Steel Orchestra, which gave me the opportunity to play the instrument." —Photo: TREVOR WATSON

Bodycam defiance demands action

WHEN police officers disobey direct orders from superiors to wear body cameras, it is a serious breach of protocol and accountability.

I believe appropriate actions should be taken to address this misconduct, including internal disciplinary measures such as a written warning or reprimand for first-time or minor offences; or a suspension or loss of pay for repeated or wilful non-compliance; or termination for persistent refusal, especially if linked to incidents of misconduct or excessive force.

Now that we have a new "stand-your-ground" Government in place and a new Minister of National Security, is it too much to expect a clear enforcement policy where departments must have clearly written policies on body cam usage, with outlined consequences for violations and officers signing acknowledgements of these policies during training and periodically thereafter?

The issue of public transparency is paramount, and police hierarchy should disclose when and why officers fail to wear body cams, especially during use-of-force incidents. And civilian review boards or oversight commissions should be empowered to investigate non-compliance. Transparency in the process boosts public trust.

Ultimately, non-compliance should never be tolerated, as it undermines transparency, accountability and public trust—three pillars of ethical policing.

Orson Rogers
Belmont



NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 57th Annual Meeting of One Caribbean Media Limited will be held at Express House, 35-37 Independence Square Port of Spain on Thursday 10th July 2025 at 10:00 am.

By Order of the Board

Karlene Ng Tang
Company Secretary
13th June 2025

ANTILLES EMPLOYEES' CREDIT UNION

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NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

Now Is the Time to Serve Your Credit Union

Antilles Employees' Credit Union Co-operative Society Limited (AECU), invites members who may be desirous of being part of its dynamic Team to serve on:

Board of Directors

Supervisory Committee

Credit Committee

Members in good financial standing, who are interested in serving on any of the above Committees can collect an application package for nomination at AECU's Office, Vessigny Village, La Brea. You can also download the Nomination Application/documents from our website at: www.antillescredituniontt.com.

Completed and signed application packages, together with a Resume and passport size photo placed in a sealed envelope, marked 'CONFIDENTIAL' and addressed to: Nomination Committee, Antilles Employees' Credit Union (Co-operative) Society Ltd, Vessigny Village, La Brea or emailed to board@antillescredituniontt.com on or before 30th June 2025 at 12:00 noon. Incomplete and late applications will not be accepted for screening.

Also, please note that members nominated from the floor at our Annual General Meeting (AGM), and if elected, will be subjected to a screening process by the Nominating Committee which will be held within five (5) days of the election process. Nominees are also required to attend mandatory Orientation sessions.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS


Ann Carter-Tittle
Secretary