STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT SETTING OUT THE SPECIFIC GROUNDS ON WHICH THE DECISION TO DECLARE A SPECIAL OPERATIONS (CLOSED AREA) ORDER, 2026, FOR THE MALONEY BUILDINGS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, MALONEY GARDENS, MALONEY, WITH EFFECT FROM NOVEMBER 10, 2026, WAS BASED ON

SECTION 11(1) OF THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS ACT, 2026

OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

On Tuesday November 10, 2026, being satisfied, on reasonable grounds that public safety and peace in the Maloney Buildings Housing Development, Maloney Gardens, Maloney were threatened –

(a) by-

(i) escalating rates of violent crime, homicide, shootings, kidnappings or gang-related activity in that area;

(ii) the prevalence of illegal firearms or ammunition, or the unlawful presence of other weapons or explosives, in that area; or

(iii) the control or intimidation , or the attempted control or intimidation of a local community by a gang in that area; and

(b) by the inability of ordinary law enforcement measures to maintain or restore public safety and peace in that area.

I made an Order declaring the Maloney Buildings Housing Development, Maloney Gardens, Maloney, situated within Policing District 2, to be a closed area, with effect from November 10, 2026.

Set out hereunder are the specific grounds on which my decision to issue this Order was based.

This statement is made pursuant to section 11(2) of the Special Operations Act, 2026, which provides that within seven days of the making of an Order under section 11(1), the President shall deliver to the Speaker for presentation to the House of Representatives, a statement setting out the specific grounds on which the decision to make the Order was based.

On Tuesday November 10, 2026, I was informed by Cabinet that on November 09, 2026, the Office of the Special Branch, Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, issued a threat assessment for the Maloney Buildings Housing Development, Maloney Gardens, Maloney. The threat assessment reported that on November 09, 2026, a shooting incident and a stabbing incident occurred within the Maloney Buildings Housing Development which left three persons hospitalized. Intelligence subsequently received, indicated a high likelihood that associates of the affected parties will engage in retaliatory violence. The community remained tense, volatile and highly susceptible to rapid escalation. Intelligence reports indicated that rival criminal associates are actively seeking opportunities to retaliate and that firearms remain readily available to criminal actors operating within the area. Compounding the threat environment is the circulation of a viral social media video depicting the shooting incident. The video demonstrates open gun violence within the community and captures scenes of panic, disorder and residents fleeing for safety. The widespread circulation of the footage has heightened public fear, increased community anxiety and is assessed as a significant escalation factor capable of influencing retaliatory behaviour.

Cabinet further advised that the threat assessment reported that the following threat indicators were present:

(a) confirmed shooting incident within the community leaving two victims hospitalized;
(b) confirmed stabbing incident within the community arising from the same incident which left one victim hospitalized;
(c) credible intelligence of planned retaliatory violence;
(d) known history of gang and criminal conflict affecting the area;

(e) availability and prevalence of illegal firearms;
(f) presence of individuals associated with violent criminal groups;
(g) viral circulation of video evidence depicting open gun violence;
(h) evidence of mass panic and public disorder resulting from the incident; and
(i) significant fear among residents regarding anticipated reprisals.

Additionally, Cabinet advised that the threat assessment indicated that the Maloney Buildings Housing Development possesses several characteristics that increase community vulnerability, namely –
(a) high population density;
(b) multiple residential apartment blocks in close proximity;
(c) large daily movement of residents, visitors and service providers;
(d) presence of children, elderly persons and other vulnerable groups;
(e) multiple access points facilitating movement by offenders; and
(f) limited ability of residents to avoid exposure during sudden firearm attacks.

Cabinet indicated that the threat assessment further stated that should the anticipated retaliatory violence occur, the following consequences were considered highly likely:
(a) multiple fatalities;
(b) serious bodily injuries to innocent residents;
(c) indiscriminate discharge of firearms in public spaces;
(d) escalation into prolonged cycles of gang-related violence;
(e) significant public disorder and fear;

(f) disruption of public services and community activities; and
(g) erosion of public confidence and community security.

Cabinet continued that the threat assessment assessed the probability of innocent casualties within the Maloney Buildings Housing Development as **High,** given the demonstrated willingness of offenders to engage in open gun violence within a populated residential environment. Additionally, the threat assessment indicated that available intelligence and operational information provided reasonable grounds to conclude the public safety and peace within the Maloney Buildings Housing Development were threatened by escalating shootings, serious violence and gang-related criminal activity. Further the threat assessment stated that there were reasonable grounds to believe that illegal firearms are prevalent within the area and available to criminal actors involved in the conflict, and that the ongoing conflict and anticipated reprisals demonstrate an environment in which criminal elements are exercising intimidation and influence over the community through violence and threats of violence.

Cabinet further advised that given the immediacy of the threat, the credible intelligence concerning reprisals, the public disorder evidenced by the viral footage and the risk of mass casualties, the threat assessment concluded that ordinary law enforcement measures were insufficient to adequately restore public safety and peace in the immediate term and classified the overall threat level in the Maloney Buildings Housing Development as **Critical.** The threat assessment further concluded that the threat to life, public safety and public order within the Maloney Buildings Housing Development is immediate, severe and ongoing, and that the combination of a shooting, a stabbing, credible intelligence regarding reprisals,

the prevalence of illegal firearms and the viral dissemination of footage depicting open gun violence and mass hysteria among residents establishes a credible and substantial risk of further serious violence.

Cabinet further advised that the threat assessment concluded that the statutory threshold under section 11 of the Special Operations Act, 2026 has been satisfied and that there were reasonable grounds for recommending that the Maloney Buildings Housing Development, Maloney Gardens, Maloney, in Policing District 2, be declared a closed area for the conduct of special operations aimed at preventing loss of life disrupting anticipated retaliatory attacks and restoring public safety and peace.

Having reviewed the information provided by Cabinet and given the above premises, I was satisfied on reasonable grounds that public safety and peace in the Maloney Buildings Housing Development, Maloney Gardens, Maloney are threatened as set out by section 11(1) of the Act specified above and that I have been provided with reasonable grounds on which I could and should declare the Maloney Buildings Housing Development, Maloney Gardens, Maloney, a closed area.

CHRISTINE CARLA KANGALOO
CHRISTINE CARLA KANGALOO, O.R.T.T.
PRESIDENT

November 16, 2026