



CRIME STOPPERS

...the power of concerned citizens worldwide



On this auspicious occasion of Crime Stoppers Month, it gives me great pleasure to highlight to the national community the work of Crime Stoppers in Trinidad and Tobago and to express our appreciation and gratitude to the various stakeholders in our nation who have, over the last few years, contributed to the development and success of the Crime Stoppers programme. Such has been the success of the local programme that at the 2005 Crime Stoppers International conference held in Canada, the Trinidad and Tobago Crime Stoppers organization received several of the top awards, including Best Radio and Television commercials and Best Press advertisement in the Public Service Announcement categories, along with the Co-coordinator of the Year award.

The Crime Stoppers programme in Trinidad and Tobago started some eight years ago, long before crime became the major issue in our society. The mission statement is to combat crime by creating an independent citizen oriented mechanism through which nationals can participate effectively in helping to detect crime by providing valuable information which the law enforcement agencies could use in their efforts to apprehend charge and convict criminals. The information provided is anonymous and therefore the provider can feel totally secure in giving information, for which a reward may be paid.

Unlike other programmes globally, which are totally funded by the private sector, the local programme is boosted by a very supportive Minister of National Security and Commissioner of Police. Indeed the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has been of great assistance, providing a significant portion of the resources and funding required for the initiative. All that support is a testament to the role that Crime Stoppers can play in the fight against crime.

The statistics and the successes of Crime Stoppers are well documented. Unfortunately because of the very nature of the programme these cannot be highlighted to the general public.

We extend our appreciation and thanks to the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Commerce who supported and nurtured the programme through its formative years. Indeed, if it was not for the financial and technical

support of the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber, the programme may never have been given the opportunity to make its contribution in the fight against crime. We are hopeful that the other private sector organizations with whom we are actively engaging will also, over the coming months and years, play a more proactive role in the further development of Crime Stoppers.

In addition to continuing and enhancing our present role, Crime Stoppers will this year embark on several new programmes in partnership with key stakeholders such as:

- (1) the creation of an "Amber Alert" system which will become operational in the very near future
- (2) a community visibility programme which will help neighborhoods across the country become more aware of the value of Crime Stoppers
- (3) Junior Crime Stoppers – an initiative that will help sensitize our youth about the Crime Stoppers programme

As the Chairman of Crime Stoppers, I speak for all the directors in expressing our heart felt appreciation and our optimism on the role that the programme can play as an added tool to the law enforcement agencies in their unrelenting fight to rid our country of the criminal activity.

In conclusion I wish to take the opportunity to welcome to Trinidad and Tobago Mr. Steve Walrath, President of Crime Stoppers International, whose visit has been planned to coincide with our month of celebrations and to congratulate him on Crime Stoppers International's special consultative status, recently granted to the organization by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Mr. John About
Chairman, Crime Stoppers T&T