

Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Finance

National Maintenance Training and Security Company Limited

Speech-

**Launch of the “Special Elite Security Service” by the National
Maintenance Training and Security Company Limited**

**Presented by the Honourable Colm Imbert,
MP, Minister of Finance**

November 20, 2024, at the
MTS Headquarters -Aranguez.

Good morning

I wish to acknowledge firstly:

- The Honourable Nyan Gadsby-Dolly, Minister of Education,
- The Honourable Foster Cummings, Minister of Youth Development and National Service,
- The Honourable Keith Scotland, Minister in the Ministry of National Security,
- The Honourable Symon De Nobriga, Minister of Communication in the Office of the Prime Minister,
- The Honourable Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Ivor Archie O.R.T.T,
- Commissioner of Police - Erla Harewood-Christopher
- Permanent Secretary Ministry of Public Utilities - Ms. Nicolette Duke
- Permanent Secretary Ministry of Sport and Community Development – David Roberts
- Chairman of the National Maintenance Training and Security Co.Ltd -Ms. Jacqueline Lazarus
- Chief Executive Officer of the National Maintenance Training and Security Co. Ltd- Mr. Lennox Rattansingh,
- Executive management and MTS Can Do Crew Members
- Members of the media,
- Distinguished Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my distinct pleasure to join you in celebrating the 45th anniversary of the National Maintenance Training and Security Company and the introduction of its new Special Elite Security Service. This event marks another significant milestone in the organization's history, highlighting its growth, agility, and strategic response to the evolving needs of its clients.

Historical Context and Evolution

To understand today's significance, we should consider the journey of this institution from its early days as a subsidiary of the American company EduSystems to becoming a fully government-owned entity in 1972. Initially focused on school construction and engineering, the organization expanded over the years to include a wide array of services such as security, facility maintenance, agribusiness, and construction management. This diversification has enabled it to serve both public and private clients, establishing itself as a provider of professional, responsive, and high-quality services that reflect its commitment to self-sufficiency and national development.

Over the past 45 years, this company has become synonymous with trust, reliability, and excellence, particularly in securing educational environments. Its revenue for the financial year 2023, which reached \$575 million, underscores effective operational strategies and a

commitment to service quality. Sustaining relationships with approximately 100 clients across 1,350 locations—from Cedros to Charlotteville—highlights an impressive national reach and responsiveness.

Despite being a wholly state-owned entity, the organization operates without direct government subventions, a testament to its self-reliant model and sound financial practices. Its commitment to good governance is demonstrated by the consistent delivery of timely audited financial results and adherence to statutory requirements, including the Public Procurement Act.

Broad Service Portfolio

This organization's growth from a school-focused maintenance provider to a multifaceted service leader showcases its adaptability and responsiveness to the nation's needs. Beyond its security services, the company offers engineering solutions, green space management, and agribusiness initiatives aimed at supporting community well-being and environmental sustainability. This comprehensive approach positions it not only as a service provider but as a cornerstone of national development, integrating various sectors to deliver broad-ranging benefits.

Friendly and Trustworthy Presence

The workforce is recognized not only for its expertise but also for its courteous and approachable manner. Their consistent presence in government offices, hospitals, and public institutions fosters a sense of safety and trust among citizens. This commitment to service reinforces the company's reputation as a reliable partner in maintaining public confidence and safety in community spaces.

Training and Career Development

A key element of the organization's operational success is its investment in employees. Every new team member undergoes mandatory training and development programs before their first assignment, ensuring they have the skills and knowledge necessary for their roles. This emphasis on workforce development sets the company apart as more than just an employer—it is a career incubator where individuals can grow and achieve long-term success. Many team members have advanced to leadership positions, a testament to the organization's commitment to nurturing talent and fostering career progression.

Regional Leadership and Expertise

This institution has secured its place as the largest private security force in the region, with over 3,670 officers deployed at more than 1,000 locations. Such scale showcases its capacity and expertise in managing extensive security services, solidifying its reputation as a trusted leader in the field. The robust nature of this security force

underscores its readiness and capability to meet the complex demands of public safety.

Self-Sufficiency

Operating without government subventions highlights the organization's sustainable model. This approach not only demonstrates sound business practices but also emphasizes resilience and adaptability. Its ability to thrive independently speaks to the financial acumen and strategic foresight of its leadership, making it a prime example of a self-sufficient state-owned enterprise.

Compliance and Governance

Adherence to robust governance practices is a defining trait of this organization. Compliance with the Public Procurement Act and the consistent delivery of audited financial results reinforce its transparent and accountable nature. This commitment to statutory and regulatory requirements builds public trust and strengthens relationships with clients, employees, and the community. By fostering a culture of integrity and responsibility, the organization continues to uphold the highest standards in its operations.

Operational Strength and Strategic Vision

With a workforce of over 7,000 employees across 12 functional divisions, the organization is not just a major employer but a vital

part of the national economy. Its wide service range—from technical and sanitary facility maintenance to design and construction management—uniquely positions it as the region’s only fully integrated facility management provider. This capability enables comprehensive, customized solutions that cater to diverse client needs.

A clear vision drives operations, encapsulated in the 2022-2026 strategic plan. This plan focuses on three pillars: maintaining quality and trust, building on strengths, and institutional strengthening. These pillars outline a path toward sustainable growth, ensuring the organization continues to evolve and respond effectively to national needs.

Maintaining Quality and Trust emphasizes continuous service improvement, ensuring that client expectations are consistently met or exceeded. **Building on Strengths** involves expanding specialized services, such as the Special Elite Security Service, to attract new clients and enhance the organization's project management expertise. **Institutional Strengthening** focuses on performance management, training, and digital innovation, highlighted by the development of a state-of-the-art command center.

Significance of the Special Elite Security Service

The introduction of the Special Elite Security Service marks a strategic enhancement in specialized, high-caliber protection

services. With the growing complexity of security challenges, there is an increasing need for customized, expert-level solutions. This new offering meets that demand by providing specialized services such as close protection, executive escorts, and security for high-priority facilities and VIPs.

The rigorous selection process ensures that only the most qualified candidates join this elite unit. Prospective officers must have at least five years of experience, exemplary performance records, and pass comprehensive reference checks. Precept qualifications, authorizing them to carry firearms and serve as Estate Constables, are mandatory.

Once selected, candidates undergo intensive training tailored for high-stakes roles, covering modules on threat response, firearm proficiency, surveillance countermeasures, emergency medical care, and strategic security formations. Comprehensive physical and psychological evaluations, polygraph tests, and background checks ensure the highest level of integrity and readiness.

Comprehensive Client Support and Onboarding

A hallmark of the Special Elite Security Service is its client-focused approach. The onboarding process involves detailed consultations and risk assessments to understand and address each client's specific security needs. This includes site visits, route analyses, and assessments of frequently visited locations to develop an exhaustive

security plan. This meticulous attention to detail provides clients with customized service and peace of mind, knowing their safety is managed with professionalism and discretion.

Aligning with National Goals and Public Sector Support

This new service aligns seamlessly with the strategic objectives of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. It underscores a commitment to fostering innovation, enhancing public safety, and contributing to economic growth through job creation. The recent increase in the minimum wage for public-sector workers from \$20.50 to \$22.50 per hour, effective November 1, 2024, which affects over 5,000 employees—including security and janitorial staff—demonstrates dedication to socioeconomic progress.

Fair compensation is essential for job satisfaction and service quality. Initiatives like the Special Elite Security Service not only meet immediate security needs but also offer career development opportunities. The organization's culture of promoting career growth, evidenced by employees advancing to leadership roles, highlights that ambition and hard work are recognized and rewarded.

Concluding Thoughts and Gratitude

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Lennox Rattansingh and the management team for their dedication to excellence and

continuous improvement. Your leadership has brought the organization to this significant milestone, setting a benchmark for others. Special recognition goes to Ms. Jacqueline Lazarus for her outstanding role as Chairman, ensuring the company remains a symbol of quality and trust.

The launch of the Special Elite Security Service represents a new chapter in strengthening national security and contributing to a safer, more prosperous Trinidad and Tobago. This initiative exemplifies what can be achieved when vision, resilience, and collaboration come together.

Let us continue to support and celebrate initiatives that prioritize our nation's well-being and development. Through collaboration, innovation, and dedication, we can foster a society where safety, growth, and opportunity are the foundation of our collective future.

Thank you, and may this new venture be marked by success and lasting impact.