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The Coronavirus "Covid 19" has conquered the world which includes our beloved Trinidad and Tobago. This was first detected in December 2019 in Wuhan, China. On January 30<sup>th</sup> 2020 our government took a decision to impose travel restrictions on anyone who had been to China for a period of fourteen (14) days prior to their arrival in Trinidad & Tobago.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago set up an inter- ministerial committee to report to the Minister of Health and Minister of National Security headed by the honorable Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley. Several press conferences were held by the inter-ministerial team and important tips and health advisories were repeatedly announced. One of which was social distancing and gatherings of not more than ten (10) later reduced to five (5) persons and the use of face masks.

On March 12<sup>th</sup> T & T recorded its first Covid 19 case. On March 13<sup>th</sup> 2020 the Prime Minister made a decision to close all schools for one week. He later restricted all entry for the next fourteen days except for nationals, with exemptions to be considered in certain circumstances. All borders were closed however, Cargo ships would be allowed to dock, but crews restricted from disembarking. All schools and places of learning remained closed, all bars, inhouse dining, to remain closed. All religious bodies were asked to limit gatherings and all non-essential businesses closed. These restrictions which were given to the general public were similar to other countries around the world. I would like to give an A+ to the Prime Minister and his team for a job well done.

Covid 19 is a once in a lifetime experience where governments throughout the world had to find unplanned money to save lives. We must not only say that we are all in this together but also act it. This World Pandemic has made drastic

changes to our lifestyle causing anxiety resulting in aggression, stress, anger, rage, etc. The time has come for us to reflect and stay calm and practice patience.

There have been articles in the Trinidad Express criticizing our Prime Minister on the thirty three (33) Trinidadians presently in Barbados, notwithstanding, one of the contributors used race as the reason for the Prime Minister not making arrangements for their return. Would it not be better if we were to thank the honorable Prime Minister of Barbados for demonstrating humanitarian qualities in providing our citizens with lodging and food, risking her political future and providing strength as a true Caricom leader.

Presently in New York whilst, the President Trump and Governors of several States are debating the lockdown, the death toll is climbing and has now surpassed the world. I am appealing to all the people of Trinidad and Tobago to join hands and assist in any way you can in order to save lives. Let us put our differences aside, whatever Political Affiliation, Religious Organization, colour of skin you may belong to, we are all in this together. This is "**World War 111**" being fought with needles and medicine not guns and bullets. Practice all the guidelines from the Ministry of Health and the Inter-Ministerial team as our enemy is invisible.

**Stay at Home, Stay Safe, Start Cooking, Save Money.**

**"God Bless our Nation"**



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