

LEGAL NOTICE NO. 40

REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

REGULATIONS

MADE BY THE PRESIDENT UNDER SECTION 7 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

THE EMERGENCY POWERS REGULATIONS, 2026

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Emergency Powers Citation
Regulations, 2026.

2. (1) In these Regulations—
- | | Interpretation |
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| “ammunition” has the meaning assigned to it in section 2 of the Firearms Act; | Chap. 16:01 |
| “explosive” has the meaning assigned by section 2 of the Explosives Act; | Chap. 16:02 |
| “Minister” means the member of the Cabinet to whom responsibility for internal security is assigned; | |
| “Order” means an Order made under these Regulations; | |
| “period of public emergency” means the period during which the state of public emergency declared by the Proclamation exists, including any extensions thereof under section 10(1) of the Constitution; | |
| “police officer” has the same meaning as in the Police Service Act, and includes a member of the Special Reserve Police established under the Special Reserve Police Act or a member of the Police Force of any Municipality; or any person to whom a precept has been issued under the Supplemental Police Act; | Chap. 15:01
Chap. 15:03
Chap. 15:02 |
| “prison” has the meaning assigned to it in section 2 of the Prisons Act; | Chap. 13:01 |
| “prisoner” has the meaning assigned to it in section 2 of the Prisons Act; | |
| “Proclamation” means the Proclamation made by the President under section 8 of the Constitution declaring that a state of public emergency exists in Trinidad and Tobago; | |
| “prohibited article” has the meaning assigned to it in section 2 of the Prisons Act; | |

“public place” means any highway, street, public park or garden, any beach and any public bridge, road, lane, footway, square, court, alley or passage, whether a thoroughfare or not; and includes any open or enclosed space to which, for the time being, the public have or are permitted to have access whether on payment or otherwise;

“weapon” has the meaning assigned to it in section 2 of the Anti-Terrorism Act.

Chap. 12:07

(2) Every Order of the Minister whereby anything is declared to be ammunition under section 2 of the Firearms Act shall be subject to negative resolution of Parliament.

(3) Without prejudice to the operation of section 27(3) of the Interpretation Act, subsections (1) and (2) of that section shall apply to, and for the determination of all acts and things previously done under these Regulations, when these Regulations expire, lapse or cease to have effect.

Orders by the
President

3. (1) In the exercise of the powers conferred on her by the Constitution and the Emergency Powers Act, the President may make Orders for the purpose of dealing with the circumstances of any situation arising or existing during the period of public emergency.

(2) Orders made under subregulation (1) may make provision with respect to all or any of the following matters, that is to say—

- (a) by prohibiting or restricting the possession or use by any person or body of persons of any specified articles;
- (b) control of the harbours, ports and territorial waters of Trinidad and Tobago, and the movements of vessels;
- (c) the transportation by land, air or water and the control of the transport of persons and things;
- (d) trading, exportation, importation, production and manufacture;
- (e) the taking, possession and disposal of any property which is in a dangerous state or injurious to the health of human beings, animals or plants;
- (f) authorising the search of persons and premises and the seizure of anything and its detention for so long as may be necessary for the purposes of any examination, investigation, trial or inquiry;
- (g) authorising the interrogation of computers and electronic devices seized under paragraph (f);

- (h) empowering such authorities or persons as may be specified in the Orders to make orders and rules and, to make or issue notices, licences, permits, certificates or other documents for the purposes of the Orders;
- (i) charging, in respect of the grant or issue of any licence, permit, certificate or other documents for the purposes of the Orders such fees as may be prescribed by the Orders;
- (j) the appropriation, or the taking of possession or control and the use of, or on behalf of the Government of any property or undertaking, save that any Orders made under this paragraph that make provision for the compulsory taking possession of, or the compulsory acquisition of any interest in or right over, property of any description shall require the payment of compensation in that behalf;
- (k) requiring persons to do work or render services;
- (l) the payment of remuneration to persons affected by the Orders and the determination of such remuneration;
- (m) the apprehension, trial and punishment of persons offending against the Orders or against any law in force in Trinidad and Tobago including the forfeiture of any property by way of penalty for such offence; and
- (n) prescribing anything by these Regulations required to be prescribed,

and any Orders made under the foregoing provisions of this Regulation may contain such incidental and supplementary provisions as are regarded necessary or expedient for the purposes of the Orders.

4. (1) Until Orders made by the President under regulation 3 otherwise provide, the Commissioner of Police is hereby authorised to exercise the following powers:

Powers
enforceable by
Commissioner
of Police

- (a) to prohibit or restrict the possession or use by any person or body of persons of any specified articles;
- (b) to impose on any person any restrictions in respect of his employment or business, in respect of his place of residence, and in respect of his association or communication with other persons;
- (c) to prohibit any person from being out of doors between such hours as may be specified, except under the authority of a written permit granted by such authority or person as may be specified;
- (d) to require any person to notify his movements in such manner, at such times and to such authority or person as may be specified;

- (e) to restrict any person from travelling except in accordance with permission given to him by such authority or person as may be specified;
- (f) to require any person to quit any place or area or not to visit any place or area.

(2) The powers conferred by subregulation (1) may be exercised by Order made by the Commissioner of Police.

Publication of Notice, Order, etc., under these Regulations

5. If at any time it is impossible or impracticable to publish in the *Gazette* any Notice or Order in pursuance of these Regulations, the President or the Commissioner of Police may cause the same to be published by notices thereof affixed to public buildings or distributed amongst the public or by oral public announcements.

Indemnity and compensation

6. No person shall be liable to any suit or action in respect of any act done under lawful direction and authority pursuant to the provisions of these Regulations, but the President may in his discretion order that compensation shall be paid out of the public funds to any person upon being satisfied that such person has suffered loss or damage by reason of the exercise of any powers conferred by regulation 3, other than subregulation (2)(j) thereof and regulation 4.

Prohibition on entry on protected place

7. (1) No person shall enter any protected place unless he is authorised by the occupier thereof or by the Senior Police Officer of the Division in which that place is situate.

(2) Where in pursuance of these Regulations any person is granted permission to be in a protected place that person shall, while acting under such permission comply with such directions for regulating his conduct as may be given by the person granting the permission, and any police officer or any person authorised in that behalf by the occupier of the protected place may search any person entering or seeking to enter or being in or upon that place and may detain any such person for the purpose of searching him.

(3) If any person is in a protected place in contravention of these Regulations, or while in such a place fails to comply with any direction given under these Regulations, then, without prejudice to any other penalty, he may be removed from that place by any police officer or any person authorised in that behalf by the occupier of the premises.

(4) In these Regulations “protected place” means a place specified by the Commissioner of Police as a protected place by a notice displayed at such place or by notice published in the *Gazette*.

Unlawful possession of weapons, ammunition, explosives or prohibited articles

8. (1) Any person who, without lawful authority, the burden of proof as to lawful authority laying upon him—

- (a) purchases, acquires or has in his possession any weapon, ammunition or explosive; or

- (b) has in his possession any prohibited article, in circumstances which raise a reasonable presumption that the prohibited article –
- (i) is or has been in a prison;
 - (ii) is to be supplied to a prisoner; or
 - (iii) is to be introduced by any means into a prison, commits an offence.

(2) A person who consorts with or is found in the company of another person, who, without lawful authority, has in his possession any weapon, ammunition or explosive in circumstances which raise a reasonable presumption that he intends or is about to act or has recently acted with such other person in a manner prejudicial to public safety, commits an offence.

- (3) In any prosecution for an offence under this regulation—
- (a) a person who is proved to have had in his possession or under his control anything whatsoever in or on which is found any weapon, ammunition, explosive or prohibited article shall, until the contrary is proved, be deemed to have been in possession of such weapon, ammunition, explosive or prohibited article;
 - (b) where it is established to the satisfaction of the magistrate that a person accused under subregulation (2) was consorting with or in the company of any person who had in his possession any weapon, ammunition or explosive, it shall be presumed, until the contrary is proved that such last mentioned person had the same in his possession without lawful authority.

9. (1) Subject to the provisions of regulation 15, a police officer may stop and search any person whom he finds in any street or other public place and reasonably suspects of having any weapon, ammunition, explosive or prohibited article in his possession contrary to regulation 8 or of having committed or being about to commit any other offence prejudicial to public safety. Power to stop and search for weapons, ammunition, explosives or prohibited articles

(2) A police officer acting under subregulation (1) may seize and detain any weapon, ammunition, explosive, prohibited article or other article found in the person's possession, custody or control and in respect of which or in connection with which he has reasonable grounds for suspecting any offence referred to in that subregulation has been or is about to be committed.

10. Any weapon, ammunition, explosive, prohibited article or other article seized and detained by a police officer as mentioned in the Forfeiture and disposal by court

provisions of regulation 9(2) found by him without an apparent owner, may be retained for as long as is necessary for the purpose of any examination, investigations, inquiries or legal proceedings, and a magistrate may, upon application made in such proceedings, direct such weapon, ammunition, explosive, prohibited article or other article to be forfeited or otherwise disposed of as he considers just.

Statements
prejudicial to
public safety

11. No person shall—

- (a) endeavour, whether orally or otherwise, to influence public opinion in a manner likely to be prejudicial to public safety; or
- (b) do any act or have any article in his possession with a view to making or facilitating the making of any such endeavour.

Searches

12. Notwithstanding any rule of law to the contrary, a police officer may, without a warrant and with or without assistance and with the use of force, if necessary—

- (a) enter and search any premises; or
- (b) stop and search any vessel, vehicle or individual, whether in a public place or not,

if he suspects that any evidence of the commission of an offence against regulation 8 or 11 is likely to be found on such premises, vessel, vehicle or individual and may seize any evidence so found.

Arrest

13. (1) Notwithstanding any rule of law to the contrary, a police officer may arrest without warrant any person whom he suspects has acted or is acting or is about to act in a manner prejudicial to public safety or to have committed or is committing or is about to commit an offence against these Regulations; and such police officer may take such steps and use such force as may appear to him to be necessary for affecting the arrest or preventing the escape of such person.

(2) Subject to these Regulations a person arrested by a police officer under subregulation (1) may be detained in custody for the purposes of inquiries.

(3) No person shall be detained under the powers conferred by this regulation for a period exceeding forty-eight hours except with the authority of a magistrate or of a police officer not below the rank of Assistant Superintendent, on either of whose direction such person may be detained for such further period, not exceeding seven days as in the opinion of such magistrate or police officer, as the case may be, is required for the completion of the necessary inquiries, except that no such directions shall be given unless such magistrate or police officer, as the case may be, is satisfied that such inquiries cannot be completed within a period of forty-eight hours.

14. The provisions of the Schedule shall have effect for the purpose of the preventive detention of persons. Preventive detention Schedule

15. Where under these Regulations a female is searched, the search shall be made by another female. Searching of females

16. (1) Notwithstanding any rule of law to the contrary, but subject to these Regulations, no bail shall be allowed in the case of any person— Bail and habeas corpus

- (a) in respect of whom a detention order is in force under the provisions of the Schedule;
- (b) detained under the provisions of regulation 13; or
- (c) charged with an offence, if it is shown to the satisfaction of the magistrate that it is reasonably apprehended that the person arrested is likely to engage or to incite persons to engage in the commission of breaches of the peace or of any other offence against the person or property or against these Regulations, or any Orders, instructions or directions made thereunder.

(2) The writ of *habeas corpus* shall not lie in the case of any person denied bail by or under subregulation (1) and no jurisdiction to grant bail in the case of such denial shall be exercised by any Judge of the Supreme Court under any rule of law or other authority.

(3) Upon the cessation of these Regulations, nothing in this Regulation shall be treated as continuing to have effect, in consequence of the continuance of any prosecution for an offence hereunder or for any other reason.

17. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, any court exercising jurisdiction with respect to any offence against these Regulations may exclude the accused or any other person from the proceedings in the event of his misconducting himself by so interrupting the court, as to render the continuance of the trial in his presence impracticable. Procedure

18. The person driving or in control of any vehicle in motion on a road shall stop that vehicle on being required so to do by a police officer in uniform. Obligation to stop motor vehicles

19. (1) Notwithstanding any rule of law to the contrary, the Commander of the Defence Force established under the Defence Act, shall hold his forces in readiness to assist, and if called upon by the Commissioner of Police shall co-operate with and assist, the Commissioner of Police in the performance of his duties under these Regulations. Defence Force to assist Chap. 14:01

(2) A member of the Defence Force referred to in subregulation (1) shall, for the purposes of these Regulations, have the powers of a police officer and shall, where acting in accordance with any general or

special instructions of the commander of the Defence Force or of any superior officer of that Force given in pursuance of subregulation (1), be deemed to be acting in performance of the duties imposed on a police officer by these Regulations or by any Orders made thereunder.

(3) A request of the Commissioner of Police for assistance under subregulation (1) may be made generally or with reference to some particular occasion or for some specific purpose.

Offences and penalties

20. A person who commits an offence under these Regulations is liable on summary conviction to a fine of one hundred thousand dollars and to imprisonment for a term of five years.

Liability under other written laws

21. For the avoidance of doubt, where a police officer, in lawful exercise of his powers under these Regulations, finds evidence that a person has committed or is committing an offence under any other written law, that person is liable to be prosecuted and punished for that offence in accordance with that written law.

Duration of Regulations

22. These Regulations shall have effect during the period of public emergency.

SCHEDULE

(Regulation 14)

PREVENTIVE DETENTION

Interpretation

1. In this Schedule—

- “Chairman” means the Chairman of the Tribunal;
- “detainee” means any person who is detained under paragraph 3;
- “detention order” means an order made under paragraph 2;
- “legal advisor” or “legal representative” in relation to any person means an advisor or representative of that person, respectively, entitled to practise in Trinidad and Tobago as an attorney-at-law;
- “prison” has the meaning assigned to it in section 2 of the Prisons Act;
- “prisoner” has the meaning assigned to it in section 2 of the Prisons Act;
- “the Tribunal” means the Tribunal established by paragraph 5.

Power to make detention orders

2. (1) Subject to the provision of paragraph 4, the Minister may, if satisfied with respect to any person, including a prisoner, that, with a view to preventing him acting in any manner prejudicial to public safety or the defence of Trinidad and Tobago, it is necessary to provide for his preventive detention, make an order—

- (a) directing that he be detained; and
- (b) stating concisely the grounds for such detention, so however, that no defect of any kind on such statement shall invalidate the order.

(2) Every order under subparagraph (1) shall come into force upon making thereof, notice of which shall be published in the *Gazette* within seven days after the service of a certified copy of the order under paragraph 3(3).

Place and
conditions of
detention

3. (1) Subject to subparagraphs (1A) and (1B), any person in respect of whom a detention order is in force may be arrested without warrant by any police officer and may be detained in such place and under such conditions as the Minister may from time to time direct and shall while so detained be deemed to be in lawful custody.

(1A) The power of arrest under subparagraph (1) only applies to a prisoner where he escapes from lawful custody under this Schedule.

(1B) Notwithstanding section 7 or any other provision of the Prisons Act, a prisoner in respect of whom a detention order is in force shall be detained in such prison as the Minister, after consultation with the Commissioner of Prisons, directs.

(2) A person who, being in lawful custody under this Schedule, escapes or attempts to escape from that custody, commits an offence, and any person who aids, abets or assists a person being in lawful custody under this Schedule to escape from that custody, or who harbours, assists or comforts any person who has escaped such custody, commits an offence.

(3) As soon as practicable after any detention order is made in respect of a person who is a prisoner or after any person is arrested in pursuance of a detention order, a copy thereof certified under the hand of the Permanent Secretary or Deputy Permanent Secretary to the Minister shall be served by a police officer on such person and the statement therein which is referred to in paragraph 2(1)(b) shall be communicated to him in a language that he understands and he shall in such language, be informed of his right to a legal adviser at his own expense, to retain and instruct such adviser without delay, and to hold communication with such adviser without being overheard by anyone else and, in due course, to present his case in person or by his legal representative, before the Tribunal.

(4) The Minister may give directions—

- (a) as to the internal management of and otherwise in connection with any such place as mentioned in subparagraph (1);
- (b) as to the maintenance of detainees and, in writing, for regulating the discipline and punishment for breaches of discipline of detainees;
- (c) in writing authorising the taking of a detainee to any place where the Minister is satisfied his presence is required in the interests of justice or for the purpose of any public or other inquiry or in the public interest, or in the interest of the detainee;

- (d) as to keeping of a detainee in custody (which shall be deemed lawful) during his absence pursuant to clause (c) from the usual place of his detention; or
- (e) for the supply of money, food or clothing, or the means of travelling, to detainees on their release.
4. Where a person is detained by virtue of the provisions of this Schedule, his case shall be reviewed by the Tribunal established under paragraph 5 in accordance with the provisions of this Schedule, if he so requests at any time during the period of that detention but not earlier than six months after he last made such a request during that period.
5. (1) For the purposes of paragraph 4 there shall be and there is hereby established a Tribunal.
- (2) The Tribunal shall consist of a Chairman and two other members who shall be appointed by the Chief Justice from among such persons as he considers fit, save that the Chairman shall be appointed from among persons entitled to practise as attorneys-at-law in Trinidad and Tobago.
- (3) The Minister, after consultation with the Chairman of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission, may designate any public officer to perform the functions of secretary to the Tribunal and may revoke any such designation.
- (4) The Tribunal may regulate its own procedure.
6. (1) In relation to every detention order, the Minister shall within a period of seven days commencing with the day on which the request for a review referred to in paragraph 4 was made, cause to be submitted to the Tribunal the grounds upon which the order has been made and such other particulars having a bearing on the necessity for the order as the Minister thinks fit, due regard being had to the public interest.
- (2) It shall be the duty of the Secretary to the Tribunal to furnish the detainee with such particulars in support of the grounds submitted as aforesaid, and with such notice of the time and place of commencement of proceedings before the Tribunal for the purposes of paragraph 7(1), as the Tribunal considers sufficient to enable the detainee to present his case against the detention, which the Tribunal shall accordingly afford him a reasonable opportunity to present, in person or by legal representative, at such proceedings.
7. (1) As soon as reasonably practicable after there have been submitted to the Tribunal under paragraph 6(1), the grounds upon which any person is detained, the Tribunal shall consider and report to the Minister as provided in paragraph 8.
- (2) For the purposes of subparagraph (1), the Tribunal may, if the Tribunal considers it relevant—
- (a) hear any person having any communication to make before the Tribunal;
- (b) put any question to any person before the Tribunal;
- (c) invite the Minister to submit further information; or
- (d) have regard to anything submitted, presented or communicated to the Tribunal as herein before mentioned.

Review by
Tribunal at
request of
detainee

Establishment
of Tribunal

Reference to
the Tribunal

Duty and
procedure of
Tribunal

(3) The Tribunal shall, from such proceedings before it as are held for the purposes of subparagraph (1), exclude any person not being the detainee, who is present at the proceedings, or his legal representative or a police officer having custody of the detainee or a person performing the functions of secretary to the Tribunal or being heard under subparagraph (2)(a), or whom the Tribunal, at the Minister's request, permits to attend such proceedings.

(4) Notwithstanding subparagraph (3) or any other law to the contrary—

- (a) the Tribunal may exclude the detainee or any other person from the said proceedings in the event of his misconducting himself by so interrupting them as to render their continuance in his presence impracticable; and
- (b) any such proceedings may be held in the absence of the detainee, if, in the opinion of the Tribunal, it is unreasonable to require his presence at such proceedings on account of his illness or for any other cause.

(5) The Tribunal may, upon the application of the detainee, at any time assign to him a legal representative if, in its opinion, it appears desirable in the interest of the just execution of the Tribunal's functions under this paragraph that the detainee should have legal aid and that he has not sufficient means to enable him to obtain that aid.

(6) The expenses of any legal representative assigned to a detainee under subparagraph (5) and the expenses of the attendance of any person before the Tribunal for the purposes of subparagraph (2)(a) at the instance of the detainee, shall be defrayed out of moneys provided by Parliament for the purpose, up to an amount allowed by the Tribunal, but subject to any limitations imposed by the Minister, as to rates and scales of payments.

Report of
Tribunal

8. (1) The report of the Tribunal shall specify in a separate part thereof its opinion whether or not there is sufficient cause for the detention of the person against whom the order was made, and may make recommendations concerning the necessity or expediency of continuing his detention, and the Minister shall cause a copy of that part of the report to be delivered to the detainee, but the remainder thereof shall not be disclosed to any person, other than the Minister, save as may be authorised by him.

(2) Where there is a difference of opinion among the members of the Tribunal as to any matter, the opinion of the majority of members shall be deemed to be the opinion of the Tribunal.

Revocation of
detention
order

9. The Minister may (without prejudice to the application of paragraph 2(2) to any order made in conformity with this paragraph) revoke a detention order at any time and in particular, may, in his discretion, do so if the Tribunal in its report under paragraph 8 specifies that, in its opinion, there is not sufficient cause for such detention.

Dated this 2nd day of March, 2026.

CHRISTINE CARLA KANGALOO
President