



SAVING LIVES... PRESERVING LIFESTYLES

Dear Minister Imbert,

In our meeting on August 26, 2009 you assured us that by October 31, 2009:

- 1) Legislation regarding the breathalyzer would be completed and made law.
- 2) Legislation regarding the radar gun (to measure speed) would be laid in Parliament, debated and made law.
- 3) Legislation making the seatbelt law one for which a ticket can be issued and applicable to wherever one is available in a vehicle, would be completed, passed, and made law.

You further assured us that all of the infrastructure to support these laws would be put in place so that implementation can be realized by December 31, 2009.

In that meeting, Arrive Alive voiced its concern with the time lines as stated above because we view the protection and preservation of human life and the safety and security of our citizens to be the highest priority of any government. You articulated that the budget took precedence over all else during the month of September; a point of view which we reluctantly and in hind sight erroneously accepted. We wish to extend our sincerest apologies to the people of Trinidad & Tobago for that failure and error in judgment.

You see Sir, Between August 26 and October 31, 2009, according to the Traffic Branch of the TTPS there were twenty two (22) crashes resulting in the death of twenty three (23) of our citizens and many more lie in hospitals nursing injuries. A significant percentage of those killed were ejected from their vehicles, among them a one year old baby girl. It cannot be deemed unreasonable, by any discerning citizen, to assume that alcohol and speed were contributing factors in some of these collisions.

Arrive Alive maintains that we in Trinidad & Tobago are not a lawless society, but rather a society that is allowed to be lawless. Discipline and personal responsibility are learned behavior and have to be influenced. The express purpose of proper law enforcement is to influence and regulate behavior. It is the public knowledge that the law can and will be efficiently and effectively enforced which ultimately creates order: thus the term, Law and Order.

You Sir, oversee a system that is failing its citizens. Baby Nevi's parents were negligent and irresponsible. Ultimately though, it is the system that allowed her parents to be irresponsible with impunity that failed her and has to be held accountable for her death. Had they known that there was first a good chance of being caught and then there was meaningful consequence for not having her securely restrained, she might very well have been enjoying her second year of life.

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The priorities of the government, Sir, appear, at best, to be skewed. The ability to bring laws into effect both efficiently and expeditiously has been demonstrated in the past. Examples include the Clico situation, and even more recently in the Proceeds of Crime Amendment. Our human resource is our most valuable resource. Your first priority has to become the protection, preservation, and development of that resource. Until you demonstrate this to be of paramount importance, and not through a continuation of meaningless rhetoric, but through actions that provide our law enforcement agents with all of the tools needed to keep us safe, you remain derelict in your duties and ultimately responsible for many lives lost on the roads of our beloved T&T.

Respectfully,

ARRIVE ALIVE!

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