



Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management
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PUBLIC INFORMATION

Thursday 17, October 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

US AMBASSADOR VISITS THE ODPM

On October 16, 2024 the United States Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago, Her Excellency Candace Bond, paid a courtesy visit to the Office of Disaster Preparedness (ODPM) Emergency Operations Centre at Mausica. Accompanying her was the Chief Military Liaison Officer, Commander Richard Reyes, and other officials from the U.S. embassy.

The Ambassador met with the CEO of the ODPM, Major General (Retired) Rodney Smart and the Executive Leadership Team. During her visit, she was briefed about the various programmes that the ODPM was pursuing to strengthen Trinidad and Tobago's disaster and climate change readiness and resilience. Emphasis was also placed on this country's recent response to Hurricane Beryl and the support that was provided to Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, following the hurricane's passage through the region.

Ambassador Bond highlighted the collaboration between the United States, Trinidad and Tobago, and countries across the region in addressing climate change. She expressed support for the ODPM's work, especially its years-long partnership with the U.S. Southern Command and Delaware National Guard. Further the Ambassador said that through cooperative efforts like these, the United States will remain a steadfast partner to Trinidad and Tobago in preparing for and responding to natural hazards.

The CEO thanked the Ambassador for her visit and the U.S. support for the office's ongoing programmes. He also expressed the ODPM's sympathy for the recent deaths and destruction the U.S. experienced from Hurricanes Milton and Helene.


Training & Education Specialist

=== PICTURE & CAPTION ATTACHED ===



US AMBASSADOR VISITS THE ODPM

Standing l-r : Peter Kalicharan – ODPM; Shania Khan – ODPM; Capt Ty Brooks – U.S. Embassy; Maj Gen (Ret'd) Rodney Smart – CEO ODPM; Ambassador Candace Bond – US Embassy; Cdr Richard Reyes U.S. Embassy, Chief Military Liaison Officer; Arlene Alexander-Simon – Humanitarian Assistance Programme (HAP) Administrative Assistant; Melissa Bart-Smith – ODPM; Maj (Ret'd) Fareed Mohammed – ODPM; Lt Cdr (Ret'd) Kirk Jean-Baptiste - ODPM.

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**OFFICE OF DISASTER
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