MEDIA RELEASE

27 July 2021

The President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House lay wreaths at the Red House Cenotaph in solemn remembrance of the events of July 27th, 1990

The President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Presiding Officers of the Parliament laid wreaths at the Red House Cenotaph on Tuesday July 27th, 2021, in solemn remembrance of July 27th, 1990.

President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes, ORTT; President of the Senate, Senator the Honourable Christine Kangaloo, and Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Honourable Bridgid Mary Annisette-George paid their respects to those who lost their lives as a result of the events on July 27th, 1990. On that day, our country’s national Parliament was besieged by insurgents who attempted to destroy the country’s democracy, but they were eventually thwarted.

The laying of wreaths was preceded by a small marching formation involving officers of Parliamentary Police Unit, and it was followed by the playing of the “Last Post” by a bugler from the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, and a minute of silence.

The Parliament pays tribute to those who lost their lives, the hostages and those who suffered directly or indirectly as a result of the events of July 27th to August 1st, 1990. Among the hostages at the Red House were the constitutionally elected Prime Minister, other Members of Parliament, and staff and visitors in the building.

Those who lost their lives were:

* M.P. for Diego Martin Central, Leo Des Vignes;
* Assistant Superintendent of Police, Roger George;
* Clerical Officer, Loraine Caballero;
* Customs and Excise Officer and former Police Officer, Arthur Guiseppi;
* Special Reserve Police Officer, Solomon McLeod (killed at Police Headquarters);
* Estate Policeman, Malcolm Basanta;

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*Chauffeur, George Francis; and
*Government Broadcasting Unit Employee, Mervyn Teague.

The Parliament acknowledges the yeoman service of those men and women whose united efforts preserved our highest institution of democracy during and after those tumultuous days, including members of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, the Defence Force, members of the Media and thousands of patriotic citizens of our beloved country.

The first wreath laying ceremony took place on the first anniversary of the attempted coup on July 27th, 1991.

Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes, ORTT, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago walks ahead of President of the Senate, Senator the Honourable Christine Kangaloo (left) and Speaker of the House, the Honourable Bridgid Mary Annisette-George, MP (right) as she arrives at the Red House for the wreath laying ceremony in solemn remembrance of July 27th, 1990.
Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes, ORTT, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago lays a wreath in solemn remembrance of July 27th, 1990.
President of the Senate, Senator the Honourable Christine Kangaloo lays a wreath in solemn remembrance of July 27th, 1990.
Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes, ORTT, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (centre), Senator the Honourable Christine Kangaloo, President of the Senate (left) and Honourable Bridgid Mary Annisette-George, MP, Speaker of the House (right), observe a minute of silence after laying wreaths to mark the solemn remembrance of those who met their untimely demise as a result of the events of July 27th, 1990.