

**THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY'S RESPONSE TO THE SIXTH
REPORT OF THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES AND
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION ON AN INQUIRY INTO MENTAL HEALTH AND
WELLNESS SERVICES AND FACILITIES IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

Recommendation M –Page 59:-

That the Ministry of Health (MOH) engages the Ministry of National Security and the Regional Corporations in establishing programmes to train emergency and first responders to handle the mentally-ill persons in the event of a disaster.

Response:-

The Mental Health Unit of the Ministry of Health commenced training in 2016 in Psychological First Aid (PFA) which addresses psychosocial needs of persons in the aftermath of a disaster including persons in vulnerable conditions, for example, elderly, mentally-ill and the disabled. This training is an ongoing initiative which targets the general public and key gatekeepers in the community.

To date, one hundred and eighty-two (182) persons have been trained from various organizations, including members of the Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service and Community Police.

It is significant to note, that some of these persons were mobilized after the recent flooding disaster to assist in the provision of counselling services for individuals and communities.