



# MEDIA RELEASE

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2 January 2024

**Statement by the President of the Senate, Senator the Honourable Nigel de Freitas and Speaker of the House, Hon. Bridgid Annisette-George, MP, on the death of former Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Basdeo Panday**

We are saddened to learn of the passing of former Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Basdeo Panday, on January 1, 2024.

He first entered Parliament as an Opposition Senator in 1972, and subsequently became a Member of the House of Representatives, representing the constituency of Couva North from 1976 to 2010. During that time, he would serve as Leader of the Opposition on several occasions, as Minister of External Affairs and International Trade in the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) Government between 1986 and 1988, and eventually as Prime Minister between 1995 and 2001.

Mr. Panday was a gifted debater, a trait many attribute to his experience as a theatre practitioner in his younger days. The Hansard record is replete with examples of his razor sharp wit edifying and at times entertaining an engaged House that included his political allies and opponents alike.

To his wife Oma, his daughters, relatives, and friends, and indeed to all of Trinidad and Tobago, we extend our heartfelt condolences to this distinguished son of the soil.

End.

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