



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **MILAT Gets a Face-Lift Courtesy PPGPL**

Situated on the lush green acreage of the old Teachers' Training College in Mausica is the home of The Military-Led Academic Training Program- MILAT. The program recently transferred to the Ministry of Youth Development and National Service is managed by the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force. On February 22, the institution officially re-opened its refurbished dining and multipurpose hall, a main meeting place for over 100 cadets who are residents at the facility. Sponsored by Park Gas Processors Limited, this latest project is one in a series undertaken by the Pt. Lisas based energy company under its ongoing partnership with the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force.

Over the past two years, PPGPL donated two watercrafts and a medical tent to the TTDF to assist with its humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) efforts. As its work with the security agency continues, PPGPL is committed to strengthen the existing youth programs such as MILAT which provide developmental opportunities for our youth who are most in need of such support.

In delivering his remarks at the small ceremony, PPGPL's President Dominic Rampersad applauded MILAT's executive for their vision and dedication to continuously improve the program. He stated that "PPGPL has grown to appreciate the broader role that the TTDF plays in this country. We hope that the wider public will also grow to appreciate the direct contribution that the TTDF has been making to our society. He stressed, "I strongly believe that environment plays a significant role in how individuals perceive themselves and the possibilities of them achieving success in life." Mr. Rampersad further appealed to the young men to, "take pride in their refurbished facility by preserving it for the benefit of future cadets." He also pledged to continue the collaboration with the TTDF in the interest of empowering the youth to make a positive contribution to Trinidad and Tobago.

The Honourable Minister Fitzgerald Hinds - Minister of Youth Development and National Service stressed that MILAT, “has been providing a second chance for young men who are not as successful in the mainstream education system. “He recognized the military- led program for instilling discipline and a sense of purpose in the cadets. He further praised MILAT for the range of activities that the students are exposed to and the environment that encouraged and applauded success as evidenced by the new pictographic wall in the refurbished dining hall. Minister Hinds told the gathering, “current and future cadets can now have meals together in a space that is comfortable and uplifting and which visually celebrates them.”

The MILAT Programme is a two (2) year, full time residential academic program designed for young men to fulfill the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) and the Caribbean Certificate of Secondary Level Competence (CCSLC). It is the only social intervention program that is specifically designed to help at-risk young men, aged 16-20 years to transform their lives and achieve academic success in a highly structured and regulated environment. It bridges the gaps for those young adults who may wish to pursue academic disciplines as well as transform their social behaviours. This program is aligned to PPGPL’s focus on social issues as it relates to marginalized and vulnerable groups.