

**C/312/2024**

**Complaint from Residents of Residence Bassin Quatre Bornes**

On 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024, residents of Residence Bassin, Quatre Bornes, submitted a formal letter to the newly appointed Commissioner of Police and copied to this Office, urging immediate and decisive action against ongoing drug trafficking activities in their locality. Despite having written several letters to the former Commissioner, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), and other relevant authorities, no significant action was taken to address the worsening situation.

The residents highlighted that drugs were being openly sold at approximately four locations within the area, the most prominent being the junction of Apolonia Lane and Mere Theresa Avenue. Drug dealers frequently occupied the intersection, were obstructing traffic, and often concealed illicit substances in nearby vacant lots, under vehicles, within wall crevices, or even inside homes. The adjacent football ground was reportedly being used as a site for both the sale and consumption of drugs, particularly for hard drug use. In addition, there was a primary school in the vicinity, thus placing young children at direct risk.

The letter further emphasized a deteriorating sense of safety in the community. Residents had begun receiving threats from drug users and dealers, and there had been instances of school children being harassed or bullied while walking home. Due to fear of retaliation, most inhabitants were reluctant to report these incidents to law enforcement authorities.

Additionally, the recent emergence of gang-related activity in nearby Jackson Avenue had further heightened fears and contributed to an overall climate of insecurity.

The residents expressed their trust in the new Commissioner's integrity and leadership and respectfully requested urgent measures to restore safety and public order in the area.

This Office inquired with the Police Department regarding the situation and was subsequently informed as follows:

- (i) In December 2024, search and crackdown operations were conducted, resulting in the arrest of two individuals for drug dealing at Santa Apolonia Street and Mere Theresa Avenue, Residence Bassin, Quatre Bornes.

- (ii) On 05 February 2025, a search was carried out at a residence located on Dina Robin Street, Residence Bassin, Quatre Bornes; however, no drugs were found.
- (iii) On 20 February 2025, another individual was arrested in connection with a case of drug dealing.
- (iv) Furthermore, regular police patrols are being maintained throughout Residence Bassin, Quatre Bornes, in relation to ongoing drug-related activities.