

PUSHING THE BLUE ENVELOPE

Travelling downhill is easy, though dangerous and potentially life-threatening; travelling uphill is challenging, pitted against falling debris, tiresome, and at times, health-shattering.

The road we travel is not an easy one, and halfway through the strategy, a period of consolidation and reflection is ever so vital. This is necessary before we take the steps to fulfill the final two years of the Transformation Strategy. Having instigated such a process a decade ago, one could readily imagine that this process was destined to be actuated, but the rapid pace and steady progress surprised me, such that one can trace the lines of action that led to the current status. One can dream and imagine, but it was only with a steady hand at the wheel that this ship sailed. The Commissioner of Police, who was also conceptualising such a Strategy, led the charge to implement the transformation. He built a reliable and energetic team, established a target-oriented senior management structure, created synergies with social and community entities, pushed officers out into the street, prepared the Force for future-proofing, and brought on board national and international experts. Each of these steps was pivotal to the phased approach to change, eventually transforming the entire Police Force, which now owns the strategy and its implementation.

Has it been an easy run? Definitely not. There were trials, tribulations, safeguards, and insight and foresight



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reviews, ensuring that the uphill struggle was well worth the pain points and that each phase built on the tried and tested previous ones.

The next years will seek those who aim to maintain the gathered pace, the strivers for change, and also those who will ensure that the pace is enhanced. This is especially important since the Eurobarometer indicated that the Police Force is highly trusted by the population (61%), well above political parties (36%), justice (35%), and the media (26%). We must be doing something right.

STRIVE ON.



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