



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

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September 5th, 2023

MEDIA RELEASE

Illegal 'Tax-Men' Granted \$90k Bail

The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service is urging persons who are being threatened by criminals trying to extort money, to report the matter to the police, as two men appeared at the Chaguanas Magistrates' Court yesterday, charged with Demanding Money by Menace (Extortion).

Following extensive investigations into recent reports of Extortion in the Central Division, **JUNIOR PRINCE**, 52, and **KESTON LOOKNANAN**, 36, both from Kelly Village, Caroni, were arrested and charged. The two accused were granted bail in the sum of \$90,000 each, and are due to reappear in court on October 2nd, 2023.

Police reports indicate that sometime in July 2023, a business person was allegedly instructed to make a payment of \$100,000 or they would be shot and the business place burnt. The business person paid a sum of money, however, new demands for a monthly protection "tax" were made. The business person reported the matter to the police, who launched extensive investigations, which led to the arrest of the two accused.

Senior Superintendent Simon, ASP Dipchand and Inspector Sylvan supervised the investigation, which was conducted by Cpl. Phillips, together with Sgt. Cielto and members of the Central Division Gang Unit.

The Divisional Commander noted that the TTPS will use all the tools available to investigate, arrest and charge those persons bent on instilling fear on law-abiding citizens through threats and extortion. Snr. Supt. Simon further stated, "If you want to "tax" people, the TTPS will ensure that you will be the one who pays in the end".

Investigations are ongoing.

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END