



## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

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October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **CoP (Ag.) Jacob: Police to Clamp Down on Illegal Quarrying, Squatting in East Trinidad**

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Conductors of illegal quarrying and those squatting on State lands are being put on notice that the police are moving to increase the number of charges of those bent on breaching those laws.

The warning comes following a meeting today with Commissioner of Police (Ag.) Mc Donald Jacob, the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) Executive and the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation Chairman, Anil Juteram, Chief Executive Officer, Betty-Ann Dial, and their 12 Councillors to address issues of crime and criminality within the Borough.

Commissioner (Ag.) Jacob, who took keen interest in the contributions of the Corporation's representatives, responded with a comprehensive plan to the committee in which he highlighted the TTPS' thrust in tackling unplanned developments (squatting) and illegal quarrying. CoP (Ag.) Jacob introduced ASP Haynes from the Multi-Agency Task Force with responsibility for monitoring illegal quarrying and the unlawful development of communities. This Unit is specially trained and works with the Land Settlement Agency and other related agencies.

According to the CoP (Ag.) Jacob and the TTPS' statistics, these occurrences, are large contributors to crime in the Division as these activities tend to lead to gang activity, violent crimes, and in some cases, murder.

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The Commissioner also revealed that as part of this strategy there will be a retraining of officers, who will also be provided with the necessary equipment, such as boots for the terrain the officers would have to traverse. The Top Cop also discussed utilising the Community Oriented Policing officers to infiltrate the community and help desist persons from entering into a life of crime, particularly through agricultural projects.

After his presentation, Commissioner Jacob made an appeal to the public to continue to partner with the TTPS through altruism, giving selflessly to their neighbours and community at large. He further implored that even with limited resources, the combined efforts of the police and community will rescue the Eastern Division from these trends.

The Corporation pledged their support and vowed to work as a collective to bring that change into fruition.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Commissioner of Police (Ag.), Intelligence and Investigations, Pamela Schullera-Hinds and Assistant Commissioner of Police (Ag.), Criminal Intelligence, Sharon Cooper, who also fielded questions from the local government team.

Chairman Anil Juteram thanked CoP (Ag.) Jacob for visiting the “food basket of the nation,” and pledged his team’s full commitment to working with the TTPS to curb crime.

**SEE ACCOMPANYING PHOTOGRAPHS**

**Corporate Communications Unit**

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