



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

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April 6th, 2021

MEDIA RELEASE

15 Arrested, 660 Tickets Issued Over the Easter Weekend

The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) Traffic and Highway Patrol Branch arrested 15 drivers and issued 660 tickets between Good Friday on April 2nd, 2021 and Easter Monday, yesterday.

Ten of the arrests led to charges of Driving Under the Influence (DUI) after breathalyser tests revealed alcohol levels over the prescribed limit of 35 microgrammes. Four people were also arrested and charged for driving a motor vehicle without a Driver's License. While another driver was arrested and charged for Driving While Disqualified after checks revealed he had exceeded the number of Demerit Points and had been disqualified from driving.

Five hundred and three of the fixed penalty notices were issued to drivers exceeding the speed limit. One hundred and fifty-seven were issued for various traffic violations including failing to wear a seatbelt, holding or using a cell phone, defective tyres, no certificate of insurance, and no tail lights.

The 20 road traffic enforcement exercises were led by Assistant Commissioner of Police Specialized Support along with Senior Superintendent Traffic and Highway Patrol Branch, Mr. Wayne Myster.

There were no road traffic fatalities reported over the long weekend and there was a 38% reduction in road deaths nationwide. Snr Supt Myster, although pleased with these statistics, expressed disappointment that there was a continued lack of adherence to speed limits. "Seventy-six percent of the tickets issued to drivers by my officers were for exceeding the speed limit! That is unacceptable.

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Drivers must understand that speed control is a critical part of ensuring roadway safety and breaking speed limits is tantamount to recklessness and selfish behaviour and will not be tolerated by the Traffic and Highway Patrol Branch.”

TTPS Road Safety Coordinator, Sgt Brent Batson, also added that there was a growing tendency for drivers to increase their speed at night when there was less traffic on the nation’s roadways. This has led to the Branch ramping up its speed enforcement exercises at night. This weekend, 30% of the speeding tickets issued were during night speed detection exercises. “Sadly we are still detecting drivers exceeding the speed limits by very dangerous ranges, in some cases as high as 160 kilometres per hour, which can almost certainly result in death or serious injury should a driver lose control or be involved in a crash.”

He also took the opportunity to remind drivers that the number of Demerit Points issued for speeding increased incrementally based on the rate of speed recorded. Speeds exceeding the limit by 31 kilometres per hour or more, could result in a fine of \$3,000 and six Demerit Points.

The weekend’s exercises included officers from the Traffic Branch Headquarters, Northern, Central, and South, and the Road Policing Task Force (RPTF).

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END