



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

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MEDIA RELEASE

As Grande Cops Record 61% Reduction in Serious Crimes...ACP Hazel Proclaims: 'Eastern Division Leading the Way in TTPS...'

Sangre Grande Police have achieved a 61 per cent reduction of reports of Serious Reported Crimes (SRCs) for the corresponding period of January 1st to February 17th, down to 25 for 2024 as opposed to 74 in 2023.

The revelation was made on February 29th by Inspector, Criminal Investigations Department (CID), Vekash Ramkissoon, at a town meeting held at the Sangre Grande Civic Centre, Sangre Grande.

This was the first town meeting in the station district since 2017.

Coupled with the overall reduction of SRCs are a 100 per cent reduction in fraud offences, 75 per cent reduction in murders, shootings, and robberies, respectively, 71 per cent reduction in larceny, 25 per cent in sexual offences and 83 per cent in other crimes in general.

According to Insp Ramkissoon, the decrease was due to the enhanced and sustained thrust of community and stakeholder engagement within the last couple of months, which has resulted in a better working relationship with the police and the public.

The Insp said among the implemented measures by the police were improving community ties; fostering better communication; increasing neighbourhood and WhatsApp groups; paying special focus on the needs of young people; improving efficiency in investigations and intelligence gathering, implementing a joint army and police patrol and expanding station council stakeholders.

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He added that there was also a robust implementation of CCTV cameras around the community, enhanced training and development for police officers, increased policing strategies and statistically directed patrols.

Assistant Commissioner of Police, Eastern and Tobago, Collis Hazel, lauded the senior officers and the frontline officers for their leadership despite the challenges.

“Eastern Division is, at this point in time, leading the way in the TTPS,” ACP Hazel asserted.

“I want to commend the Senior Superintendent, Ryan Khan, who has been leading the Eastern Division for quite some while, as a resident, as someone who knows your concerns and to commend the officers under him who have that charge and responsibility to police these communities.”

The ACP however admitted that crime fighting is no easy feat and singled out the role of parents in guiding young people away from the “treacherous” life of crime.

“Gone are the days when you tend to leave every up to the police and only complain,” he said.

“What about us being a part of the neighbourhood watch and setting up a neighbourhood watch within our communities to ensure that we can all know what is going on? What about us finding time to ensure that we create a level of trust and confidence in someone who we can talk to when we do have our problems so that we can report them? What about us as parents taking up our responsibilities to manage our children,” he asked.

He urged parents in the community who are failing to accept their familial responsibility and that of making their neighbourhood safe to have some introspection and change their ways.

“Stop pointing the finger at the police and start pointing the finger at yourself,” he quipped.

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He urged, “You are the parents of this community, you are the ones who bring these children into the world, and, for God’s sake, they aren’t holding no secret for you. Protect them, guide them, and they will be the catalyst for change for tomorrow’s society. Some of us have shirked our responsibilities and everything we tend to leave it up for the police.”

“We are prepared to work with you but you can’t alienate yourself from your responsibilities and leave it up to the police and aspect that you are going to get a total result, this has to be a partnership approach,” he stressed.

ACP Hazel also lamented over the “revolving door phenomenon” for repeated juvenile offenders in which the police, who prevent crimes through its Police Youth Clubs (PYCs), prosecute these offenders and bring them to the court, which in turn, return them to the PYCs for rehabilitation. He said while the police are publically criticised for many things, the noble and consistent work behind the scenes is rarely mentioned.

Residents also praised the police for their visibility in the communities but requested that police also pay attention to wayside garages, praedial larceny, and traffic issues, among other concerns.

Also present at the town meeting were Senior Officers of the Eastern Division, Member of Parliament, Cumuto/Manzanilla, Dr Rai Ragbi, various representatives of the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation, Trinidad and Tobago Municipal Police Service, Trinidad and Tobago Fire Service, Praedial Larceny Squad, Traffic Wardens Department, Sangre Grande Police Station Council, among other key stakeholders.

SEE ACCOMPANYING PHOTOGRAPHS

Corporate Communications Unit

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