



## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

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February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **Court forfeits TT \$77,620.25 from slain gang leader**

The Court has ordered that TT\$77,620.25 seized from a gang leader, be forfeited.

The order was granted yesterday by Chief Magistrate Busby Earl-Caddle via virtual hearing of the Port of Spain Eighth Magistrates' Court. The State was represented by State Attorney Anastacia Mc Meo of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP).

On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2018, TT\$13,500 and US \$9,500.00 were seized from **Dwayne Felix Thomas** at the Morvant Police Station. The cash was seized pursuant to the Proceeds of Crime Act Chapter 11:27.

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2018, a Cash Detention Order was granted by **Acting Deputy Chief Nanette Forde-John** at the Port of Spain 8<sup>th</sup> Magistrate Court for an initial period of three months. This order was granted to allow for continued investigations into the legitimacy of the source of the funds or its intended use.

The currency which amounted to TT\$77,620.25 was deposited into the Treasury by virtue of Section 38 (5) of the Proceeds of Crime Act.

Inspector Seecharan, of the Financial Investigations Branch (FIB) conducted enquires, interviewed persons, made requests to several State agencies, received responses, and submitted a file with his findings and recommendations. The Office of the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) was engaged and advice sought.

On 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2020, an application for forfeiture of the seized cash was laid at the Port of Spain Magistrates' Court.

On 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2020, Dwayne Felix Thomas, 33, of Fairways, Maraval, was shot multiple times at Snake Valley, Laventille, and died from gunshot wounds.

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In 2018, Thomas was charged with organizing, planning and facilitating a gang in committing an offence, while others were charged with providing support to a gang by assisting in the trafficking of drugs. On November 8, 2018, police officers raided an apartment located at Macaya Trace, Munroe Road, Cunupia. During the raid, officers found and seized a large cache of assault rifles and over 80 kilogrammes of marijuana, with a street value of over \$1 million.

### **Corporate Communications Unit**

February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**END**

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