



## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

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April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **\$1.4M in Cocaine Seized during Operation 'Central Take Back'**

More than \$1 million worth in cocaine and \$22,500 in marijuana were seized during Operation 'Central Take Back' held yesterday in the Borough of Chaguanas. Sixteen persons were also arrested.

The joint anti-crime exercise, was conducted by officers of the Chaguanas Municipal Police, the Northern Division of the Municipal Police and assisted by the Traffic Warden Division and the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS).

During the hours of 3 am and 6 am a party of officers from the Chaguanas Municipal police, Port of Spain City Police Task Force, Point Fortin Municipal Task Force, members of the Canine Unit, and the Inter Agency Task Force, went to the Felicity and New Settlement area.

A series of raids and searches were conducted, where WPC Matloo discovered two brick shaped packages, later revealed to be cocaine amounting to 3.58 kilogrammes with an estimated street value of \$1,432,000. PC Thomas then discovered several packages of marijuana amounting to 1.5 kilogrammes with an estimated street value of \$22,500. Two persons were arrested. One empty nine millimetre firearm magazine was also found.

Thirty-five charges were laid against 16 people, 13 of whom were arrested for illegal vending by officers of the Street Patrol Unit. One person was charged for driving without a driver's permit and without valid insurance, one person was charged for disorderly behaviour and one person charged for driving under the influence. A total of 61 tickets were issued for various traffic offences.

A booth was created on the Chaguanas Main Road in the vicinity of the Market, where the community outreach initiative of the exercise was conducted. Supervised by Cpl Skeete of the Port of Spain City Police, a partnership was formed with members of the Gender Based Violence Unit (GBVU) led by Sgt Valerie Hospedales, Community Police Central Division, led by Sgt Jacey Small, and members of the Central Taxi Drivers Association. Members of the public were treated with a tactical display where several women were taught

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basic self-defence by Pc Sealy of Community Police. They were also given information by the Taxi Association on safe travelling and registered taxi stands for various routes.

The anti-crime exercise was coordinated by Municipal ACP Surrendra Sagrainsingh, Municipal Snr Supt Nazir Mohammed, Municipal Supt Glen Charles and Municipal Asp Ballyram Lalla along with their TTPS counterparts Supt Tiwarie and ASP Powder and supervised by Insp Samaroo, Sgt Duncan and Sgt Greene.

Enquiries are continuing.

**SEE ACCOMPANYING PHOTOGRAPHS**

**Corporate Communications Unit**

April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

**END**