



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

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MEDIA RELEASE

Police Dismantle Organised Crime Group, Destroy \$10M Marijuana Campsite in Sangre Grande

Police believe they have made a significant dent in the operations of an Organised Criminal Group (OCG) having destroyed over \$10,000,000 worth of marijuana yesterday during an anti-gang operation in the Sangre Grande area.

During the operation, executed by the Eastern Division Gang and Intelligence Unit (EDGIU) and the Eastern Division Task Force, in collaboration with the Region Two Gang Unit and the Air Support Unit, journeyed three miles into a forested area of the Upper Cunapo Road, Sangre Grande, where the officers located two camps outfitted with solar panels, equipped with water tanks and air condition units and other amenities.

Police later seized and destroyed 111 kilogrammes of cured marijuana with an estimated street value of \$3,333,341.

Law enforcement also destroyed 2550 marijuana plants with a combined weight of 255 kilogrammes of local marijuana with an estimated street value of \$7,632,405. The local marijuana was eradicated on three acres of forested lands.

Two grow houses equipped with solar panels and air conditioning units were also located and destroyed as part of the operation. The grand total of the operation is an estimated \$10,965,746.

The exercise came following further leads into the operations of an OCG whose main operations are based in the Belmont district.

Similarly, EDGIU officers executed an operation on March 14th, 2024, during which they located another campsite in a forested area of the Upper Cunapo Road, Sangre Grande. There, they destroyed 500 fully grown marijuana trees, an estimated 400 marijuana seedlings and 10 kilogrammes of cured marijuana were burnt. The entire camp was brought to a close.

The estimated street value of the 500 fully grown local hydro marijuana trees, 400 local hydro marijuana and 10 kilogrammes of cured local hydro marijuana were \$6,597,170.

In the recent past, officers of the Eastern Division also arrested and charged a 21-year-old man in a marijuana seizure of 36 packets of marijuana which weighed 24.8 kilogrammes. The arrest came following a high-speed chase in the Sangre Grande district.

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Also, on February 13th, 2024, two men were also charged by EDGIU following a surveillance exercise at a campsite 12 kilometres into a forested area of Romain Trace, Guaico, Tamana.

The two men were caught tending to a marijuana field with approximately 1024 full-grown marijuana trees and an estimated 1000 seedlings on about four acres of land with an estimated street value of \$3,283,203.

Police also discovered and seized a Draco Rifle fitted with a laser and seven rounds of 7.62 ammunition during that exercise.

The Eastern Division continues to implement anti-gang and crime suppression initiatives to further reduce serious reported crimes which are inextricably linked to the illegal drug and firearm trade that are negatively impacting several of the rural and unplanned communities under its care.

These measures are also being supported by the softer approach of policing where its Community-Oriented Policing Officers are working with psychosocial support agencies and community stakeholders to provide an alternative, sustainable life to young people confronted by the gang culture and influence in these communities.

Citizens are encouraged to continue providing actionable information to the police on gangs, drug pushing and firearms via its Anti-Crime Hotline 555, 736-TTPS or CRIME STOPPERS at 800-TIPS, as the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service works to bring about a greater sense of safety and security.

SEE ACCOMPANYING PHOTOGRAPHS

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