



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

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MEDIA RELEASE

Snr Supt, Eastern Division Issues Statement on Recent Incidents

The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS), Eastern Division, is currently investigating a series of serious incidents that occurred over the weekend in the Sangre Grande, Valencia, and Matura policing districts. The Division assures the public that it is actively in control, guided by a clear strategy, enhanced deployment, and a focus on maintaining law and order across all affected communities.

The confirmed incidents are as follows:

1. Fatal Shooting at KP Lands, Valencia on Sunday, July 6, 2025: The Eastern Division police confirm the fatal shooting of Kelvin “Balo” Paul, age 39, and injuries sustained by two other men in a targeted gun attack. Investigators from the Eastern Division and Homicide Bureau Region II are managing the case with urgency, precision, and coordination. The motive for this incident has not yet been confirmed.
2. Homicide in the Matura District on Friday, July 4, 2025, when the body of Jeremiah Lord was found following a confrontation in a remote area in Matura. One other individual remains hospitalised. This case is also under active investigation by detectives from the Eastern Division and homicide personnel.
3. Shooting and Wounding at Katwaroo Trace, Sangre Grande on Saturday, July 5, 2025: The police are investigating a shooting that left four individuals wounded when a vehicle came under gunfire near Katwaroo Trace. This attack appears to have been orchestrated and may be connected to emerging rivalries and prior criminal activity.

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While the nature and timing of these incidents raise public concern, the TTPS and Eastern Division emphasise that they do not represent a breakdown in law enforcement. Rather, they highlight the evolving nature of organised criminal violence and the TTPS's ongoing commitment to disrupt it.

The Eastern Division's crime trends for the period from January 1 to June 30, 2025, include an 8% overall reduction in Serious Reported Crimes (SRCs), an 18% reduction in violent crimes compared to 2024, and a 53% overall detection rate, up from 44% the previous year. There has been an 81% increase in firearm recoveries over the same period in 2024. Significant gains have been made in Sangre Grande, Mayaro, and Rio Claro stations through targeted intelligence-led operations.

In line with the TTPS 2025–2027 Strategic Operational Plan, the Eastern Division has launched and sustained a range of tactical and community-focused initiatives, including:

- 24/7 patrol grid coverage, focusing on Valencia, Sangre Grande Central, and high-risk districts.
- Coordinated joint patrols, including mobile patrols, stop-and-search exercises, bar checks, and roving teams targeting firearm and other criminal offenders.
- Heightened visibility at community events, crime hotspots, and nighttime entertainment areas to deter retaliatory actions.
- Operational intelligence deployment through the Eastern Division Intelligence network, which provides real-time targeting information to police officers in the field.
- Several arrests and charges laid, including charges for wounding with intent, larceny, armed robbery, and possession of firearms and ammunition. These measures are guided by data, informed by

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community input, and designed to adapt quickly to evolving criminal tactics. Special attention is being given to disrupting the drug-gun-retaliation nexus that has contributed to some firearm-related incidents.

The TTPS and Eastern Division are aware of the anxiety and trauma that violent crime inflicts on communities. We reaffirm to the public that every violent incident is taken seriously, and no criminal act will go unanswered. While investigations are ongoing, further details remain confidential to preserve the integrity of the operations and arrests.

We encourage anyone with information to contact the police via 555, 999, or the nearest station. Your support is vital to both the speed and effectiveness of our response.

This is not a time for fear, but for vigilance, unity, and collective resolve. The Eastern Division remains committed to protecting every community within its jurisdiction. Our officers are present, alert, and relentless. We thank the public for its continued support, and we will continue to report responsibly to you, not with excuses, but with results.

Snr Superintendent of Eastern Division
Christopher Paponette

Corporate Communications Unit
July 6th, 2025

END

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