



## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

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May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **Marijuana Trees valued at \$800,000 destroyed in Rio Claro**

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An anti-crime exercise was conducted in the Rio Claro district, between the hours of 10:30am and 3:30pm on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2020, where 800 marijuana trees, valued at \$800,000, were destroyed.

The exercise was coordinated by Senior Superintendent (Ag) Aguilal, Ag Insp. Samaroo and Ag Insp Joseph and supervised by Sgt. Mahabir, Ag Sgt. Maharaj and included Ag Cpls Denoon, and Neaves.

Officers proceeded to a camp located 50 feet off the Roadway at Old Rio Claro Mayaro Road, Union Village, Rio Claro where two men, **Kishore Sampath**, a 63 years old, and **Michael Ali**, a 53 year old were seen cultivating a marijuana field approximately two lots with 800 trees. The men were seen watering the growing plants. Michael Ali was in possession of a homemade shotgun and six rounds 12 gauge cartridges. They were both arrested and jointly charged for cultivating marijuana and Michael Ali was charged with Possession of Firearm and Ammunition.

The marijuana trees were valued at \$800,000.00. The trees were uprooted and destroyed.

On the same day, officers went to the home of **Danny Persad**, of Mahabalsing Trace, Navet Village, Rio Claro, when they arrived Mr. Persad was at the back of his house holding a Maverick Mossberg pump action shotgun. **Raffi Baksh** who lives at the same address was seen with a screw driver screwing on a butt.

With an additional search conducted, one 12 gauge cartridge was found in the shotgun, both men were arrested and jointly charged for the offences of Possession of a Firearm and Ammunition.

**SEE ACCOMPANYING PHOTOS**

**Corporate Communications Unit**

**26<sup>th</sup> May, 2020**

**End**