



## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

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May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **Cops Crackdown: Guns, Ammo, Narcotics Seized**

Officers cracked down on known drug dens and persons of interest over the weekend during a drug and gun eradication exercise. Several persons are expected to appear before the courts today to answer to gun, ammunition and narcotics charges.

According to police reports, on May 13<sup>th</sup>, officers of the North-Eastern Division arrested a 19-year-old man of Upper Bushe Street, Maitagual for possession of 71.6 grams of marijuana, he is also engaging the attention of police as he is a suspected gang member who is also wanted for questioning with regards to shootings in the Irving Street area.

During the exercise, in another incident, based on information received, officers proceeded covertly on foot through a track in the Second Caledonia area where they observed two men, age 18 and 19, both of Second Caledonia, Morvant along the said track. The officers had cause to search the men, during the search the officers discovered one Tanfoglio Force 99 pistol fitted with one magazine and ten rounds of nine millimetre ammunition tucked in his waist. Both men were arrested and taken to the station. Investigation into this discovery is ongoing.

During the exercise officers received information which led them to Pitch Road, Morvant, the officers conducted a search on an empty parcel of land where one black bag containing several clear packets containing 400 grams of marijuana the items were immediately seized. The said officers then proceeded to Cipriani Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Caledonia, Morvant and a search was conducted of an open area of land where a black plastic bag containing one black Fabrique Nationale Herstal Belgique pistol and three rounds of ammunition were discovered and seized. During this exercise a 22-year-old man of 2<sup>nd</sup> Caledonia, Morvant was arrested relative to house breaking offences in the Barataria Police District.

Also based on information received, officers searched an empty parcel of land along El Socorro Extension, El Socorro where two black packets containing 350 grams of marijuana weres discovered and seized. Officers are continuing leads into this discovery.

Officers of North-Eastern Division were conducting a surveillance exercise in Aranguez, which led them to execute a search warrant for illegal firearms and ammunition at the home of a 64-old-old man located at Williams Street, Aranguez. The search lead to the detection of 20.7 grams of cocaine. The narcotics was seized and **TIMOTHY VILLARUEL**

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was arrested and taken to the Barataria Police Station where he was charged for possession of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking.

Around 6 pm the Arima Municipal Police Station were on a mobile patrol along Hoyte Avenue, Maturita Village, Arima when officers observed a group of men standing on the eastern side of the said street. The men ran off in an easterly direction. The officers gave chase and further observed a man throwing an item in some bushes nearby. The man was apprehended a short distance away. According to the police report when the man was questioned he allegedly replied “is a little weed ah have dey”. A black bag was retrieved with 482 grams of marijuana which was seized. **WENCESLAUS LARRAH** was charged for possession of marijuana, he is expected to appear before a magistrate today.

Officers of the Inter-Agency Task Force conducted a search of the surrounding areas in the vicinity of apartment buildings located along Nelson Street, Port-of-Spain, during the search officers discovered and seized 227 grams of cocaine. The officers also discovered 474 grams of marijuana. Officers then made their way to Duncan Street and executed a search warrant at the home of a 77-year-old visually impaired man for arms and ammunition. This apartment is used to hide various illegal items by gang members. The search unearthed one Glock 30 pistol with nine rounds of .45 ammunition which were seized.

Officers of Special Branch South executed a search warrant at the home of a 39-year-old man, in the presence of his mother-in-law. The search was conducted at Farlon Drive, Bel Air, La Romain. During the search officers discovered one Glock 21 pistol with two magazines and 66 rounds of assorted ammunition in the ceiling of a bedroom. The firearm was seized and the man is expected to appear before the courts.

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, around 12.30 am officers were on mobile patrol along Pump Trace, Laventille when they observed a black Kia Cerato vehicle proceeding east along Pump Trace and then south onto Williams Street at a high rate of speed. The officers gave chase and intercepted the vehicle a short distance away. The driver of the vehicle a 30-year-old man of Dan Kelly Village, Laventille hastily exited the vehicle and began running and fell a short distance sustaining injuries his head in the process, while the passenger age 19, of Picton Road, Laventille remained seated. Both men were searched but nothing illegal was found on them. However, a search of the vehicle was conducted in their presence and one magazine with 8 rounds of .40 caliber ammunition were discovered in the console of the vehicle and seized. The two men were arrested and cautioned, the driver was taken to the Port-of-Spain General hospital where he was medically examined. Both men were then taken to the Besson Street Police Station where investigations are ongoing.

Later that day officers were on exercise duty in Tableland along Sisters Road, New Grant when they had cause to search a 61-year-old labourer of New Grant, a clear plastic bag with 11 grams of cocaine were found. **LESTER JOCHIM** was arrested and charged and is due to appear before a Princes Town Magistrates’ Court today.

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This weekend's exercise netted over 1.3 kilogrammes of marijuana, 258.7 of cocaine, five firearms, with an assortment of ammunition and three men are currently before the court and several other persons are arrested and assisting police with ongoing investigations.

**Corporate Communications Unit**

May 16<sup>th</sup> , 2021

**END**

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