



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

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April 1st, 2020

MEDIA RELEASE

CoP: TTPS may have to close banks, supermarkets, and markets if they do not comply with social distancing outside premises

Commissioner of Police, Gary Griffith, says the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) may be forced to close banks, supermarkets and markets, if citizens do not adhere to the strict guidelines of not congregating in numbers over five.

The CoP wishes to advise those persons who spend most of their time speaking about an individual who leaves his house to jog in an isolated environment where there is little risk, they should be more concerned about the hundreds of persons who are cramped outside banks, supermarkets and markets. This issue, he says, should be a major concern to these critics as the spread of the virus is more likely to come from these places.

Commissioner Griffith says if these persons do not adhere to their responsibilities as laid out by the Chair of the National Security Council (NSC), he may be forced to close those banks, supermarkets and markets. He says that the Minister of National Security has spoken to all banks and other institutions about social distancing.

Commissioner Griffith says he has asked the Minister of National Security, who has agreed, that these institutions place markers outside their premises where customers would have to stand six feet apart. These markers, in the first instance, could be in the form of a tape or chalk. Customers should take note of this.

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The CoP is advising people “to get in their section’, observe the markers, and only move forward when the person in front of you moves. He says that failure of these institutions to comply could lead to the TTPS closing them.

Commissioner Griffith notes that there are many elderly persons lining up outside these places at the end of the month, and he is asking the younger persons to allow the elderly to move past them and conduct their business quickly.

The CoP wants citizens to adhere to the guidelines of social distancing immediately. Failure to comply would be our biggest failure and this could lead to the virus being spread. He says while the banks and supermarkets allow a certain number of persons inside the premises, it also needs to be noticed that there are hundreds on the outside who are tightly bunched up. He says it takes just one person with the virus outside these premises to infect others.

Corporate Communications Unit

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