



ANY REPLY OR SUBSEQUENT REFERENCE SHOULD BE  
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**To: The News Editor**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LACK OF HELMET USE AND IMPROPER DRIVING SKILLS CAUSE OF  
MOTORCYCLISTS DEATHS**

December 9, 2014- The Road Safety Unit in the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing is urging motorcyclists and pillion passengers to wear their helmets to protect themselves from injury and/or death in the event of a collision.

This appeal comes against the background where 3 motorcyclists including a pillion passenger have died in traffic crashes over the weekend (Friday December 5 to Sunday, December 7).

Statistics from the Road Safety Unit reveal that of the 3 motorcyclists who have died, neither of the deceased was wearing a protective device (helmet). Commenting on the statistics, Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing, Dr. Morais Guy says, *“All motorcyclists should wear motorcycle helmets which are required by law when operating a motorcycle to reduce the incidence of head injury after a crash. These types of accidents can potentially have serious or fatal effects.”*

To date, a total of 57 motorcyclists, all males have been killed since the start of the year with 48 % of the deaths recorded in western parishes, with 5 deaths in St. Elizabeth, 12 in Westmoreland, 4 in St. James and 7 in Hanover. The Corporate Area recorded a total of 10 deaths due to motorcycle related crashes.

The Ministry is urging motorcyclists to wear the required protective devices stipulated by law. Motorcyclists are being encouraged to ensure that all motorcycle helmets acquired are in accordance with the approved standards under the law which are: the British Standard (BS); Japanese International Standard (JIS); Economic Community of Europe Regulations (ECER) and the Federal Motor Vehicle Standards (FMVS).

Minister Guy notes that in addition to motorcyclists and pillion passengers desisting from wearing a helmet, they (motorcyclists) are not manoeuvring the motorcycle with due care in different conditions and situations in the traffic environment. *“Upon observation and investigations carried*

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*out by the Police of the crashes, reports showed that the motorcyclists failed to maintain adequate stopping distance and practice proper techniques of riding. Motorcyclists should be ready to respond to any eventualities in the traffic environment, such as, vehicles turning, passing other cars, and drivers opening parked vehicle doors. They are also being urged to avoid tailgating.”*

The Road Safety Unit is appealing to motorcyclists and road users to be more attentive and careful on the roads leading up to the festive season.

A total of 302 deaths have been recorded as a result of motor vehicle crashes since January with pedestrians, motorcyclists and private motor car drivers accounting for the majority of deaths.

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