



ANY REPLY OR SUBSEQUENT REFERENCE SHOULD BE
ADDRESSED TO THE **PERMANENT SECRETARY** AND
THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE NUMBER QUOTED:-
TELEPHONE NOS:(876) 754-1900-1; (876) 754-258/2589;
(876) 960-2886 (fax)
rsu@mtw.gov.jm

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, WORKS & HOUSING
ROAD SAFETY UNIT
145 MAXFIELD AVENUE
KINGSTON 10
JAMAICA

To: The News Editor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUT SAFETY FIRST THIS EASTER

March 10, 2015- The Road Safety Unit in the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing is appealing to motorists to exercise extreme caution in the traffic environment over the long Easter Holiday weekend.

Since the start of the year, 89 persons have died as result of road traffic crashes. Of this number 25 were pedestrians, 23 were motorcyclists; 18 were passengers of private motor cars, 11 were drivers of private motor cars.

Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing Dr. Morais Guy said *“as the Easter Holiday approaches, persons should exercise greater care on the roads. Since January 2015, Jamaicans have been losing their lives due to recklessness of motorists who continue to disobey the rules of the road. The main causes of these fatal crashes include; overtaking recklessly; swerving; speeding excessively; tailgating and failure to keep left.”*

Minister Guy noted that if road users – motorists and pedestrians alike, can undergo an attitudinal change and conduct themselves in a responsible manner, particularly by strictly conforming to the rules of the road, Jamaica would witness a dramatic reduction in the incidents of road carnage.

Meanwhile, Director Road Safety Unit, Mr. Kenute Hare noted that acting responsibly and obeying the road rules will reduce the risk of death and injury on our roads – as the aim for a Below 300 road toll is dependent on every Jamaican. *“For those drivers who have to drink during the festivities, designate a driver to transport you home safely. Ensure that your vehicles are not defective; check your tyres”.*

Drivers and parents, who are transporting children, are also urged to ensure that they (children) are properly belted and fitted in the necessary protective devices. Of the 89 persons who have died due to road crashes, 6 were children. Pedestrians are also being advised not to put themselves in danger whilst using the roads.

-More-

The Road Safety Unit would like motorists to remember the following tips to keep themselves safe:

- Avoid driving when you're tired;
- Do not overload vehicles;
- Be visible – drive with your headlights on during adverse weather conditions ;
- Do not drink and drive;
- Designate driver if you intend to drink;
- Desist from speeding; drive within the speed limit and drive to the road conditions;
- Always wear your seat belts and helmets, and ensure that everyone is wearing theirs in the vehicle and on a motorcycle;
- Avoid distractions while driving; and
- Drive defensively with a focus on safety for all road users.

-30-

Contact:

Mr. Kenute Hare
Director
Mobile: 564-5429
Email: khare@mtw.gov.jm

Ms. Cameal Stewart
Education Information Officer (Acting)
Mobile: 551-0009
Email: cstewart@mtw.gov.jm