ANY REPLY OR SUBSEQUENT REFERENCE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE **PERMANENT SECRETARY** AND THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE NUMBER QUOTED:-
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To: The News Editor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RECKLESS USE OF THE ROADS TAKING LIVES

October 9, 2015 – The Road Safety Unit in the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing is reporting that reckless use of the roads continues to result in loss of lives. As of October 8, 283 persons have been killed from a total of 263 fatal crashes.

Statistics from the Unit reveals that excessive speeding, drivers failing to keep near side/traffic lane and pedestrian error were the main causes of fatal crashes. Of the 283 persons who have died, 240 were males and 43 were females. Motorcyclists, pedestrians, private motor vehicle drivers, and passengers of private motor vehicles account for 84 % of fatalities to date – 86 were Motorcyclists, 67 were pedestrians, 41 were PMC passengers and 42 were PMC Drivers.

Director in the Unit, Kenute Hare is imploring road users to take road safety seriously. He says that the majority of our road crashes are related to bad driving practices. *"Excessive speeding account for the highest number of fatal crashes which currently stands at 64 %. This is a worrying trend and does not seem to be abating notwithstanding our best efforts to curb the practice. Adding to that problem is the fact that d*rivers *are changing lanes without signalling, disobeying traffic lights, and failing to keep left".*

Continuing Hare said, "*drivers must change their behaviour and think of other road users. Road fatalities are not just statistics, these deaths cause a great deal of suffering for the people who have lost a loved one or who are left with a permanent injury. It has a big impact in our lives. At this rate, it is projected that road fatalities for the year will be 351."*

In the meantime, the Ministry is expressing sadness at the death of the 7 year old girl, who was killed along the Savannah Cross Main road in Clarendon recently.

The Unit continues to appeal to all road users to recognise the road markings and signs, wearing of seatbelts, helmets and other protective devices to save life.

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