



THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTRY OF ENERGY & ENERGY AFFAIRS **IN COLLABORATION WITH ASSOCIATED STATE AGENCIES** **CLAMPS DOWN ON ILLEGAL EXPORT OF DIESEL**

Given the mandate by the Government to eliminate the illegal export of subsidized diesel, the Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs, in collaboration with the Customs and Excise Division of the Ministry of Finance, the Maritime Services Division of the Ministry of Transport, the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Food Production, Land and Marine Resources and the Coast Guard, has been increasing the monitoring of the use of diesel by vessels operating within the waters of Trinidad and Tobago.

As a consequence of such action, eight vessels were impounded at Staubles Bay, Chaguaramas. The vessels were inspected by Customs and Excise Division, the Maritime Services Division and the Fisheries Division for infractions in relation to the respective laws which govern the operations of these agencies.

Arising from such inspections, the Customs and Excise Division advised that offences were detected in five of the eight vessels and appropriate penalties were imposed. The Maritime Services Divisions inspected three vessels which fell under its jurisdiction and found structural modifications which the owners were ordered to convert to their original specifications. The owners of the vessels had been requested to make the appropriate adjustments as ordered by the Maritime Services Division. To date, two of the vessels' owners have complied and one is in the process of doing so. The Fisheries Division inspected six of the vessels that fell within its jurisdiction, which had been approved for fishing, and found a number of structural modifications. As such, they too will be taking appropriate action.



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The Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs continues to work with the relevant agencies to fulfil the objective of eliminating the sale and export of subsidized diesel. The Ministry's efforts, which have been implemented in tandem with the other said state agencies, have started to achieve positive results as Petrotrin has advised that the sale of subsidized diesel fell by 15 per cent over the period September to November 2011 and has resulted in a savings of over \$90 million in subsidies.

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