



Recommendation vii on Illegal Quarrying: The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service should identify ways in which it could further assist the MEEI going forward by August 30, 2020.

Response:

In an attempt to mitigate against illegal quarrying and assist the MEEI the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) has partnered with multiple stakeholders against illegal quarrying. An example is the establishment of a Multi-Agency Task Force (MATF) to collaboratively investigate and prosecute acts of illegal quarrying.

The TTPS by itself, and where appropriate, in conjunction with the MATF, can assist the MEEI in going forward with regards to illegal quarrying in the following, but not exhaustive ways:

1. Engage in covert surveillance to obtain evidence of illegal quarrying;
2. Assist in investigation of illegal quarrying, targeting the principal offenders, using the appropriate Laws of Trinidad and Tobago;
3. Assist the MEEI by providing escort and security for the Mineral Inspector when visiting quarries;
4. Assist the Mineral Inspector and the Director of Minerals in identifying and prosecuting quarries that are in breach of their licenses and found engaging in illegal quarrying activities; and
5. Investigate the supporters and co-conspirators, who benefit from the proceeds of illegal quarrying.
6. Sensitize the public about the presence of the TTPS App and the hotline for citizens to report anonymously activities of suspected illegal quarrying.
7. Utilise modern technological support in conducting covert surveillance.
8. Provide specific training in surveillance for the officers assigned to the Unit.