

POLICE COMMUNIQUE

It has been noted with much concern that during the night of Friday 22 April 2022, there have been several sporadic incidents in the localities of Camp Levieux, Barkly, Line Barracks, GRNW, Cite Vallejee, Roche Bois, St Croix, Abercrombie and Trou d'Eau Douce.

2. During these incidents, Police Stations and Police vehicles have been attacked by cocktail molotovs and infrastructures such as safe city cameras, sign posts, traffic lights and roads have been set on fire causing heavy damage and obstruction. Likewise, stones and other projectiles have been hurled at Police officers and thirteen of them have been seriously injured and had to be given urgent medical treatment. Three rioters have so far been arrested for taking part in an unlawful assembly.

3. The attention of the public is drawn to **Section 139 of the Criminal Code Act - Taking Part in Unlawful Assembly** which is reproduced as hereunder:

"139. Taking part in unlawful assembly-

(1) Any person who takes part in an unlawful assembly shall commit an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding 100,000 rupees and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years.

(2) In this section and in the following sections "unlawful assembly" means 12 or more persons who -

(a) are assembled with intent to commit an offence; or

(b) being assembled even for a lawful purpose, conduct themselves in such a manner as is likely to lead to or provoke a breach of the peace."

4. Police therefore, relies on the sense of responsibility of the public in general not to indulge in any such activity or provocation which may jeopardise public safety and public order and the normal peace of the society.

5. Any infringement of the laws of the country will be promptly and severely dealt with, to protect the population and safeguard public infrastructure.

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