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**To: The News Editor**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**VULNERABLE ROAD USERS ACCOUNT FOR MAJORITY OF THE PERSONS KILLED IN  
TRAFFIC CRASHES**

**March 23, 2015** - The Road Safety Unit in the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing is reporting that vulnerable road users (pedestrians, motor cyclists and pedal cyclists) account for the majority of road users killed in road crashes since the start of the year.

Statistics from the Unit reveal that of the 83 persons who have died: 22 were pedestrians; 22 were motorcyclists and 3 were pedal cyclists. This is a 12 % increase in fatal deaths when compared to the similar period in 2014, when 74 persons died.

Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing, Dr. Morais Guy noted that the statistics are alarming as these crashes are preventable. “Excessive speeding, improper overtaking, pedestrian error and failure to keep to the left are some of the primary reasons why we are having these deaths occurring. Seventeen per cent (17%) of these fatal crashes were due to excessive speeding, and (17%) were due to the fact that motorists failed to keep in their traffic lane. In addition, four per cent (4%) of these crashes were due to improper overtaking”.

Meanwhile, Director of the Road Safety Unit, Kenute Hare noted that the increase in fatalities for the period is unacceptable and Jamaicans must take charge of their safety and lives in the traffic environment. “With 82 days into 2015, persons have died in accidents at a rate of almost one a day. This is an intolerable state of affairs – we need to live road safety and reap the rewards,” he emphasised.

The Road Safety Unit noted that motorcyclists continue to pose a problem in the traffic environment. The parishes of Westmoreland and St. Elizabeth account for 45% of the motorcyclists killed in traffic crashes since the start of the year, with 36% in Westmoreland and 9% St. Elizabeth. A total of 22 motorcyclists have died to date (March 22).

Of the 15 persons who have died in Westmoreland 8 were motorcyclists, and 6 were males under the age of 30.

-More-

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