LEGAL NOTICE NO. 839

REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

THE PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND FESTIVALS ACT, CHAP. 19:05

REGULATIONS

MADE BY THE PRESIDENT UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND FESTIVALS ACT

THE PUBLIC FESTIVALS (TOBAGO CARNIVAL) REGULATIONS, 2026

Citation

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Public Festivals (Tobago Carnival) Regulations, 2026.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations, "leader", in relation to a band or orchestra, means the person responsible for the organisation of a band or an orchestra.

Restrictions

3. (1) A person shall not—

(a) appear dressed in—

(i) the uniform prescribed for the Police Service, Special Reserve Police, Fire Service, Prison Service or any unit of the Defence Force unless the person is a serving member of the Police Service, Special Reserve Police, Fire Service, Prison Service or any unit of the Defence Force; or

(ii) any costume which may be mistaken for the uniform prescribed for the Police Service, Special Reserve Police, Fire Service, Prison Service or any unit of the Defence Force;

(b) portray or represent or appear wearing any costume which portrays or represents in any manner, any deity of a living religion or portrays any event in a manner likely to bring into disrepute, ridicule or contempt any religion practised in Trinidad and Tobago;

(c) throw any substance, matter or thing likely to cause damage, injury or discomfort;

(d) smear or daub on any other person any substance, matter or thing, or with intent to intimidate or to obtain from that other person any money or valuable thing, attempt or threaten to smear or daub on that other person any substance, matter or thing;

(e) have in any public place any exposed flame or any article of an offensive nature;

(f) carry any lethal weapon or any article capable of causing damage or injury, unless that person is a member of the Police Service, Special Reserve Police, or the Defence Force and is on duty;

(g) play in any orchestra on the road unless the name of the orchestra and the names and addresses of the members of the orchestra are registered in accordance with regulation 5;

(h) drive any motor vehicle when masked or facially disguised;

(i) travel in any motor vehicle when masked or facially disguised, unless the vehicle is licensed in accordance with regulation 6;

(j) sing or recite any lewd or offensive song;

(k) indulge in behaviour or gestures which are immoral, lewd or offensive;

(l) carry or use in a derogatory manner the flag or Coat of Arms of Trinidad and Tobago or of any other country;

(m) have in his possession or carry in any band anything resembling a firearm or ammunition;

(n) carry any explosive or smoke-producing substance or anything likely to produce smoke; or

(o) drive or display any vehicle disguised as a tank, an armoured military vehicle or warship, or display on any vehicle anything disguised as a rocket launcher or artillery.

(2) Section 2 of the Firearms Act applies for the interpretation of the expressions referred to in paragraphs *(m)*, *(n)* and *(o)* and are defined in that Act.

Registration of bands

4. The leader of every band—

(a) of more than fifty persons, shall register his band with the Senior Superintendent or Superintendent of Police in charge of the Police Division in which the leader resides and on registration, the Senior Superintendent or Superintendent of Police shall assign a registration number to the band;

(b) shall ensure that his band is identified by a banner on which the name and registration number of the band are inscribed in a conspicuous manner; and

(c) of more than fifty persons, shall produce the certificate of registration of the band at the request of any uniformed member of the Police Service, Special Reserve Police, Supplemental, City or Borough Police.

Registration of orchestras

5. (1) The leader of an orchestra shall not allow his orchestra to play on the road unless he has registered its name and the names and addresses of its members with the Senior Superintendent or Superintendent of Police in charge of the Police Division in which the leader resides and on registration, the Senior Superintendent or Superintendent of Police shall assign a registration number to the orchestra.

(2) The leader of an orchestra shall ensure that his orchestra is identified by a banner on both sides of which the name of the orchestra and the registration number are inscribed in a conspicuous manner.

(3) The leader of an orchestra shall produce the certificate of registration for the orchestra at the request of any uniformed member of the Police Service and the Special Reserve Police.

Licensing of vehicles

6. (1) A motor vehicle shall not be used to convey any person masked or facially disguised, unless the owner of the motor vehicle is the holder of a licence issued for that purpose by the Senior Superintendent or Superintendent of Police in charge of the Police Division in which the owner of the motor vehicle resides.

(2) An owner of the motor vehicle shall make an application for a licence under subregulation (1) and the application shall contain—

(a) the names and addresses of the persons to be conveyed;

(b) the name of the band to which the persons belong; and

(c) the names and addresses of persons, not more than three in number, who would be driving the motor vehicle during Tobago Carnival.

(3) Any member of the Police Service or Special Reserve Police may stop and search any motor vehicle in which there is any person who is masked or facially disguised or may require any person in the motor vehicle to give his name and address.

Penalty

7. Any person who, during the period of Tobago Carnival, contravenes any of these Regulations commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars and to imprisonment for six months.

Duration

8. These Regulations shall have effect in the island of Tobago from 12.00 a.m. on Friday 30th October to midnight on Sunday 1st November, 2026 for the purposes of Tobago Carnival, 2026 as declared in the Public Festivals (Tobago Carnival) Order, 2026.

Dated this 29th day of October, 2026.

C. HEMLEE
Secretary to Cabinet

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