

TO: The News Editor**DATE: 2011 July 13****NEW BADGE PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC PASSENGER VEHICLE OPERATOR****EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**

Effective immediately, the Transport Authority wishes to advise that Public Passenger Vehicle operators will now be able to obtain Police Certificates by making payments at any Tax Administration Jamaica offices islandwide instead of traversing to Kingston. Additionally, the Authority says drivers and conductors in rural parishes can now have their fingerprints taken at anyone of the following three Jamaica Constabulary locations: Summit Police Station in Montego Bay, Area 2 Headquarters in Pompano, Tower Isle, St. Mary and Divisional Headquarters, Brooks Avenue, May Pen.

Under sections 124, 125, 126 and 127 of the Road Traffic Regulations and Section 22 of the Road Traffic (Taxis & Contract Cars) Regulations, drivers and conductors of public passenger vehicles are required to wear badges while operating these vehicles. The badge allows commuters to readily identify a licensed driver or conductor. It reduces opportunities for abduction, rape and theft as badges are only issued after a detailed review of the operators criminal records.

In the meantime, the Authority says the moratorium on prosecution for public passenger vehicles for rural areas which commenced on June 1, 2011 will continue until September 1, 2011. Drivers and conductors are therefore urged to obtain their badges during this period and avoid prosecution.

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