



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Works and Transport

Maritime Services Division



SHIPPING NOTICE

UNREGULATED PASSENGER (PARTY) BOATS OPERATING IN THE WATERS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Summary

This Notice is to:

Advise ship owners, ship operators, masters, and crew of vessels, passengers and the general public of the requirements for passenger ships operating in the waters of Trinidad and Tobago.

1. Introduction

Maritime Services Division is a division of the Ministry of Works and Transport responsible for the safety and security of shipping and the preservation of the maritime environment. The Division is pleased with the number of passenger boat owners who are registered under The Shipping Act 1987 and who have taken the opportunity to showcase our maritime environment by way of short cruises in the waters of Trinidad and Tobago.

It has come to our attention however that there are some unregistered operators of passenger vessels in Trinidad and Tobago. These operations are potentially unsafe and members of the public are hereby advised on how to recognise these potentially unsafe operators.

2. Excerpts from The Shipping Act 1987

The public is asked to take note of the following excerpts from The Shipping Act 1987 with respect to passenger vessels operating in the waters of Trinidad and Tobago:

- a. That a passenger means any person carried on-board a ship except the master, a member of the crew, an apprentice or a person employed or engaged in any capacity on board the ship on the business of the ship.
- b. A Pleasure craft means a ship, however propelled, that is used exclusively for pleasure and does not carry passengers or cargo for hire or reward, but does not include a ship that is provided for the transportation or entertainment of lodgers at any institution, hotel, boarding house, guesthouse or other establishment.

- c. That every passenger ship, shall before plying or proceeding to sea from any port in Trinidad and Tobago, have on board a valid passenger ship safety certificate which shall show inter alia the number of passengers which the ship is fit to carry.

- d. Passenger ship means a ship which is constructed for, or which is habitually or on any particular occasion used for carrying more than twelve passengers.

3. Conclusion

Boat owners and operators and the general public are advised that it is unsafe and an offence to operate a passenger vessel which departs from a port in Trinidad and Tobago without a safety certificate issued or endorsed by Maritime Services Division. Members of the public who are unsure of the validity of a vessel purporting to offer passenger services should ask for the safety certificate before proceeding on board or parting with their cash.

Director Maritime Services
Ministry of Works and Transport
15th February 2016