



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

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October 6th, 2022

MEDIA RELEASE

Director, Customs Clerk on \$1.5M Bail on Importing Controlled Drugs, Money Laundering Charges

A director of a distribution company and a customs clerk who were charged on Tuesday with Conspiracy to Import Antibiotics and Controlled Drugs without a Licence and Money Laundering were granted \$1.5 million bail with a surety by a Justice of the Peace.

JOSH RAGOONANAN, 31, of Ramasray Gardens, Phase 2, Debe, a director of a distribution company, was jointly charged on October 4th with **SELWYN JOSEPH**, 37, of Henry Street, Arouca, an apprentice customs clerk, with Conspiracy to Import Antibiotics Without a Licence, Conspiracy to Import Controlled Drugs Without a Licence and Money Laundering by Detective Gorking of the Financial Investigations Branch (FIB).

RAGOONANAN was additionally charged with Importing Antibiotics Without a Licence, Importing Controlled Drugs Without a Licence and Storing Antibiotics Without a Licence.

RAGOONANAN and **JOSEPH** were given \$900,000 and \$600,000 bail on October 4th, to cover the charges, respectively. The charges were laid following the advice received from Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions, Nigel Pilgrim.

Both men are to appear before the Siparia Magistrates' Court on November 18th, 2022.

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They were arrested following a joint investigation and operation by agents of the Customs and Excise Division of the Ministry of Finance and FIB which resulted in the seizure of a large quantity of pharmaceutical drugs at residences in Ramasray Gardens, Debe.

According to police reports, on September 28th, 2022, agents of the Preventative Unit of the Customs and Excise Division (CED) received information that a quantity of pharmaceuticals was smuggled out of the Queen's Wharf, Port-of-Spain.

The CED conducted enquiries and proceeded to a house in North-Central Trinidad where they executed a writ of assistance pursuant to section 205 of the Customs Act Chapter 78:01. A man at the house was subsequently arrested.

The following day, the CED agents and FIB detectives proceeded to a house in Debe and to a nearby abandoned premise where they allegedly found and seized a large quantity of pharmaceutical drugs which comprised controlled drugs, antibiotic and over the counter drugs.

During the exercise, FIB detectives also allegedly seized a large quantity of cheques from several pharmacies across the country, and cash which was reported to be the proceeds from the sale of pharmaceutical drugs and a bottle sealer.

The FIB was led by Senior Superintendent (Ag.) Wendell Lucas and included Inspector McKenzie, Cpl Eslam and others.

SEE ACCOMPANYING PHOTOGRAPHS

Corporate Communications Unit

October 6th, 2022

END

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