



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

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December 3rd 2021

MEDIA RELEASE

Senior Public Officer Charged with Stealing \$1.49 Million in Tax Revenues

A supervisor attached to the Inland Revenue Division (IRD) of the Ministry of Finance was granted bail in the sum of \$1.5 million dollars, when she appeared before a Justice of the Peace, charged with misappropriation of TT\$1.49 million in cash, belonging to the State.

LYSTRA IRVING, 42, a senior public officer, from Chaguanas, was also charged with misbehavior in public office, involving the falsification of Government records and multiple counts of money laundering, when she appeared before JP Abraham Ali, on Thursday 2nd December, 2021.

She was granted bail with a surety and ordered to appear at the Port of Spain Magistrates' Court on January 11th 2022.

In January 2021, senior auditors at the IRD detected several discrepancies with the accounting entries made by a senior public officer and realised that a certain amount of tax revenue received from the public could not be accounted for.

A report on the discrepancies was made to the Fraud Squad in February 2021 and a team of officers, led by Insp. Samuel of the Fraud Squad, conducted a thorough forensic investigation into the matter. The suspect was subsequently arrested on Wednesday 1st December, 2021.



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Irving was charged with the offences on Thursday 2nd December, 2021, following advice received from the Director of Public Prosecutions, Roger Gaspard SC, on that same date.

SEE ACCOMPANYING PHOTOGRAPH

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END



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