



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

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October 12th, 2021

MEDIA RELEASE

\$150,000 Bail for Venezuelan Woman Charged with Issuing Fake Driver's Permit at Bank

A 25-year-old Venezuelan woman, who appeared in court on fraud charges yesterday, was ordered to surrender her passport and report to her local police station once per week.

The accused, **MARIA LAURA ACOSTA MONTANO**, who resides in Marabella, San Fernando, was given the orders as part of her bail conditions which were set at \$150,000 with a surety.

MONTANO appeared virtually before San Fernando Magistrate Armina Deonarinesingh on October 11th charged by WPC Sadar-Seenarine of the Fraud Squad with forgery of a Trinidad and Tobago Driver's Permit and uttering a forged Trinidad and Tobago Driver's Permit.

The matter was postponed to October 19th, 2021.

The suspect was arrested on October 8th, after a commercial bank along Harris Promenade, San Fernando, reported to the Fraud Squad South Office that a woman allegedly uttered a driver's permit as proof of identification which appeared unauthentic.

Bank officials told police that the permit was accepted as genuine as the woman's proof of identification to open an account, however, upon verification, the permit was found to be fraudulent.

The suspect was subsequently arrested and taken to the Gasparillo Police Station pending further investigations.

Following a probe by a team of fraud investigators, **MONTANO** was charged with the offences.

SEE ACCOMPANYING PHOTOGRAPH

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END