



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

Police Administration Building,
Corner Edward & Sackville Streets, Port of Spain
Telephone: 1 (868) 625-8395 Facsimile: 1 (868) 625-7133
Email: corporatecommunications@ttps.gov.tt

February 16th, 2024

MEDIA RELEASE

2 Charged with Cultivating Over \$3M in Marijuana in Tamana to Know Fate Next Week

Two men who were held for marijuana cultivation, possession of a prohibited weapon and possession of ammunition both pleaded guilty on Wednesday before a Master at the High Court in Sangre Grande.

SALEEM VILLARUEL, 21, of Guaico, Tamana Road, and AZIZI WILLIAMS, 42, of Robinson Trace, Damarie Hill, Sangre Grande, both unemployed, are scheduled to reappear before the court on February 19th, 2024, where they are expected to be given their sentences.

VILLARUEL and **WILLIAMS** were arrested on February 8th and charged on February 13th, 2024, by PC Singh of the Eastern Division Gang and Intelligence Unit (EDGIU) following a surveillance exercise at a campsite 12 kilometers into a forested area of Romain Trace, Guaico, Tamana.

During the exercise, EDGIU and Multi-Operational Police Section officers observed two men tending to a marijuana field with approximately 1024 full-grown marijuana trees and an estimated 1000 seedlings on about four acres of land.

The marijuana had an estimated street value of \$3,283,203 and was described as local hydro grade some of which were cultivated in a greenhouse.

Police also discovered and seized a Draco Rifle fitted with a laser and seven rounds of 7.62 ammunition.

SEE ACCOMPANYING PHOTOGRAPHS

Corporate Communications Unit

February 16th, 2024

END