



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

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August 21st, 2022

MEDIA RELEASE

Operation Inchbrook- Illegal Cigarettes, Gambling Machines and Electrical Items Seized

“Criminal activity does not occur in silos, but are all in some way interconnected, and any incursion made to stop organized crime from flourishing and expanding is a positive step forward”.

This, from Acting Commissioner of Police, Mc Donald Jacob as he commented on **‘Operation Inchbrook’**, which led to the seizure of illicit goods, including illicit tobacco products, illegal gambling machines and substandard electrical items. He further stated that illegal and substandard products put citizens at risk, and illegal gambling and gaming are channels for money laundering and other nefarious activities.

In July 2022, searches were conducted at a number of restaurants, bars, supermarkets and mini marts across various policing divisions, which led to the arrest of two businessmen and the seizure of the following:

1. 81,320 illicit tobacco items
2. 552 electrical items believed to be substandard
3. \$43,088 TT currency and a reprogrammed cash register from an illegal Play Whe site.
4. 13 unauthorized gambling machines.

On Friday 22nd July 2022, charges of ‘Selling Tobacco products that are not packaged and labelled in a manner that complies with the requirements of the Tobacco Control Act and Regulations’, were laid virtually, at the Port of Spain Magistrates Court, against MINGTING ZHENG and EDMUND CHEE.

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‘Operation Inchbrook’ was a successful example of intelligence-led, collaborative law enforcement, that involved Multi-Agency Task Force (MATF) personnel, who were joined by officials of the Trinidad and Tobago Fire Service, the Bureau of Standards, the Ministry of Health-Chemistry, Food and Drug Division, the Ministry of Public Utilities-Government Electrical Inspectorate Division and the Occupational Safety and Health Authority and Agency.

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END

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