



## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

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March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **2 Venezuelan Women Fined \$1.2K for Illegal Gaming Operations**

Two Venezuelan women who pleaded guilty yesterday to Operating Illegal Gaming Houses were each fined \$600 by a Mayaro Magistrate.

**ASTRID RENGIFO, 32, of Cedar Grove Road, Mayaro, and JENNIFER FERNANDEZ, 23, of Mafeking Village, Mayaro,** who were both charged on February 28<sup>th</sup> by PC Smith and Ragbir of the Sangre Grande Task Force (SGTF), respectively, were allowed up until April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, to pay the fines or in default serve three months hard labour.

Following the matter, \$TT15,956 and two gaming machines were forfeited by the state.

According to police reports, SGTF police officers conducted an exercise on the evening of Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2023, where they proceeded to a building situated at Guayaguayare Road, Mayaro, where they paid surveillance to illegal Play Whe gambling.

Following the surveillance, police officers saw a machine operator, facilitating an illegal gaming house. The officers acted and arrested a 32-year-old woman. They also seized \$8,063.

Enquiries continued with the assistance of a Spanish interpreter.

In a similar exercise later on, SGTF police officers proceeded to a bar at Naparima Mayaro Road, Pierreville, Mayaro, where they also conducted surveillance and saw illegal Play Whe operations.

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Police subsequently arrested a 23-year-old woman in connection with the investigation. The lawmen also seized \$7,893.

Following further enquiries, the two women were charged with Operating Illegal Gaming Houses.

The matter was heard by Magistrate Ava Vandenberg-Bailey while Sgt Racha led the prosecution.

**Corporate Communications Unit**

March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

**END**