



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 16/07/2021

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MEDIA RELEASE

The Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago ("the FIUTT") has noted content in the media, inclusive of social media, which alleges that the FIUTT is investigating specific issues.

The FIUTT states that it cannot confirm or deny that matters which appear in the public domain are matters that may have engaged its attention. The FIUTT advises members of the media and the public that pursuant to section 22 of the FIUTT Act, it is an offence for an FIUTT officer to disclose information that has come into his possession as a result of his employment in the FIUTT to a person otherwise than in the proper exercise of his duties.

The FIUTT does NOT conduct investigations or searches. These matters are not within the remit or role and function of the FIUTT. Pursuant to section 8 of the FIUTT Act, the FIUTT is responsible for the collection of financial intelligence and information and the analysis, dissemination, and exchange of such financial intelligence and information among Law Enforcement Authorities, Financial Institutions and Listed Business in Trinidad and Tobago and internationally.

The FIUTT wishes to remind persons of the offence of "tipping-off" in accordance with section 51 of the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA). Under sections 51(1) and (2) of the POCA, a person commits an offence if he knows or suspects that an investigation is being conducted by the Police into money laundering; or a disclosure has been made to the Police or to the FIUTT, and he discloses information to any other person which is likely to prejudice any investigation which is being or might be conducted.

In addition, it is an offence under section 23 of the FIUTT Act for a person other than an FIUTT officer who receives information from the FIUTT, to knowingly disclose the information to any other person.

The FIUTT continues to strictly comply with its legal and international obligations to keep confidential all intelligence and information gathered in the execution its functions.

Dated July 16,2021

Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago