

# NEWS NEWS NEWS

## CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL CASHPOT

The Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Commission continues its crackdown on the sale of illegal CashPot tickets across the island. Curselda Young will be spending \$55,000 in fines or one year at hard labour, for her second conviction for charges of Possession and Selling of Illegal Lottery Tickets. This was concluded in the Annotto Bay Resident Magistrate Court on Tuesday, March 15, following her arrest some weeks before.

Further afield in Westmoreland, on Friday, March 18, at 12:30 p.m., members of the Commission supported by members of the Mobile Reserve of the JCF conducted simultaneous operations at two houses situated along Hatford Road, in Fort William District, to apprehend and arrest two suspects for illegal bookmaking, seizing cash and related paraphernalia.

Acting on information that persons were selling illegal CashPot tickets in Fort William, Commission staff conducted an operation, resulting in the arrest of Beulalee Allen age 39 years, a Shopkeeper in the District and Charmaine Atkinson, aged 42 years, a Labourer in the area. They were charged with Selling Illegal Lottery Tickets and Illegal Bookmaking. A sum of cash and paraphernalia were also seized. Both accused persons were offered bail to attend the Savannah-La- Mar Resident Magistrate Court on Tuesday March 29, 2011.

At the start of the year, in the early hours January 16th, 30 persons were arrested by police officers in Portland for unlawful gaming. The recent Amendments to the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act (BGLA) contains a schedule of Fixed Penalties which assigns set fines for breaches of the Act, and are treated in a fashion similar to that of a traffic ticket and payment of associated fines. Unlawful gaming is defined as an offence under section 38 of the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act:

**Section 38(1)** *For the purposes of this Act “unlawful gaming” includes gaming: .... (c) done by any person under the age of 18 years. The offence of permitting a minor to bet, negotiate or participate in any betting, gaming or lottery or to be in a room where gaming machines are located may attract a fine in Court of up to \$1,000,000 and/or imprisonment for up to 12 months. A person charged for such an offence can agree to pay a fixed penalty of \$500,000 instead of going to Court.*

(more)

## **CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL CASHPOT cont'd...2**

**Section 38(2)** states that *anyone who takes part in unlawful gaming or is present at any such gaming for the purposes of taking part therein shall be guilty of an offence which may attract a fixed penalty of \$50,000, or, upon conviction in the RM Court, a fine of up to \$1million or imprisonment for up to 12 months or both.*

**Section 38(3)** states that *any person concerned in the organization of unlawful gaming, or who makes premises available for unlawful gaming, or who makes premises available to a person who has committed an offence of unlawful gaming, shall be guilty of an offence which may attract a fixed penalty of \$375,000 or, upon conviction in the RM Court, a fine of up to \$2million or imprisonment for up to 2 years.*

The Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Commission and the Jamaica Constabulary Force continue their concerted efforts to uphold the provisions of the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act, to create greater public awareness of the Law, and to appeal for cooperation from the public. A copy of the Act and further information on the Commission and the BGLA may be found on the BGLC website at [www.bglc.gov.jm](http://www.bglc.gov.jm) .

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