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## MEDIA RELEASE

The Trinidad & Tobago Racing Authority (TTRA) hereby informs of decisions taken at its Special Board Meeting held on **Tuesday 15th February 2022** on the under mentioned matters:

1. **Application for Reinstatement of Trainer's Licence – Mr. Christopher Prime**

The Board has granted the reinstatement of Mr. Christopher Prime Trainer's licence under stipulated conditions.

2. **Withdrawal of PRINCE GEORGE from Race 4/Day 6 held on March 27, 2021**

Having considered the evidence submitted by Mr. Dillon Fermin (Groom), Mr. Ryan Lalla-Maharajh (Trainer), Dr. Sasha Neckchuddy (Industry Veterinarian), Mr. Richard Constantine (Groom) and Mr. Robert Lochan (Groom), the Board found that the treatment of **PRINCE GEORGE** by Mr. Dillon Fermin may have caused the horse to behave in a fractious manner, thereby causing him to rear and fall in the Parade Ring, which led to his withdrawal from the race.

As such, pursuant to Rule 8(4)(t) of the Rules of Racing (2020) the Board has decided to **fine Mr. Fermin the sum of Three Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$350.00). This sum is to be paid by Monday, February 28, 2022. Failure to pay said sum may result in the suspension of Mr. Fermin's licence.**

The Board wished to urge Mr. Fermin to be mindful that following the passage of the Animal (Diseases and Importation) (Amendment) Bill, 2019, anyone found to be guilty of animal abuse and cruelty, ***“commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of Two Hundred Thousand dollars (TT\$200,000.00) and imprisonment for a term of five years.”***

Also, pursuant to Rule 72(3) of the Rules of Racing (2020), ***“No person shall act in a manner prejudicial to the integrity, proper conduct or good reputation of horseracing in Trinidad and Tobago whether or not such conduct shall constitute a breach of any of the Rules of Racing.”***

**3. REQUEST FOR ENQUIRY BY OWNER DEREK JOSEPH (#672) AND TRAINER HARRY SINGH (#196) INTO REFUSAL OF JOCKEY PRAYVEN BADRIE (#351) TO RIDE RACEHORSE 'ZHILIANG' ON BOXING DAY – DAY 13 - DECEMBER 27TH 2021**

Having given due consideration to the evidence provided at the enquiry the Board found as follows:-

Mr. Prayven Badrie (Jockey) was declared to ride 'ZHILIANG' in **Race 5/Day 13 of the 2021 racing season (Monday 27th December, 2021)** and he reneged on this obligation, without just cause.

The Board noted that Mr. Prayven Badrie paid the One Hundred Dollar (TT\$100) fine imposed upon him by the race day Stewards for the matter, in keeping with **Rule 51(6)**. However, the Board also advised that reneging on a race and taking up another mount in the same race was **unethical** and very irresponsible. This was a breach of Mr. Badrie's contract with Mr. Harry Singh (Trainer), and by extension, Mr. Derek Joseph (Owner) of 'ZHILIANG'.

The Board cautioned Mr. Prayven Badrie (Jockey) that this type of behaviour will not be tolerated, as it sends the wrong message to the racing industry, as well as, racing enthusiasts and it is in contravention of **Rules 72(3) of the Rules of Racing (2020)**, *"No person shall act in a manner prejudicial to the integrity, proper conduct or good reputation of horseracing in Trinidad and Tobago whether or not such conduct shall constitute a breach of any of the Rules of Racing."*

As such, pursuant to **Rule 72(5) of the Rules of Racing (2020)**, the Board has agreed to **suspend Mr. Prayven Badrie (Jockey) from race riding for the period Friday February 18th 2022 to Friday March 25th 2022.**

Mr. Badrie however will be permitted to continue exercising horses.

**4. ENQUIRY INTO JOCKEY RONALD ALI'S (#343) PERFORMANCE WHILE ABOARD ATALANTA IN RACE 5/DAY 11 OF THE 2021 RACING SEASON – NOVEMBER 27TH 2021**

Having given due consideration to the evidence provided at the enquiry the Board found as follows:-

The Board, after extensive review of the race and having given careful consideration to the evidence submitted by Mr. Ronald Ali (Jockey) and Trainer Chester Roberts, found that Mr. Ali failed to take all reasonable measures to ensure that 'ATALANTA' was given the full opportunity to obtain the best placing possible in the race, in contravention of **Rule 53(2) of the Rules of Racing (2020)**, *"A jockey shall take all reasonable and permissible measures throughout the race to ensure that his horse was given full opportunity to win or of obtaining the best possible placing."*

The Board however, noted Mr. Ali's mitigating factors and found merit in his actions/decision. In light of his statement therefore, the Board opted against taking further action against Mr. Ali, but rather wished to remind him of his obligations and what he represented as a Jockey.

Mr. Ali was advised to be ever mindful of the inherent risk involved in his profession, regardless of track conditions.

The Board reminded Mr. Ali that he is a Champion and experienced Jockey and he represented the Owner and Trainer of all the horses that he rides. Mr. Ali's statement that he was concerned for the welfare of his charge, as well as himself, given the track conditions was noted. Animal welfare issues are a grave concern to all. The Board advised him that he must continue to set a good example to the young Jockeys who would regard him as a mentor.

The Board issued a stern warning to Mr. Ali that should there be a reoccurrence of a similar nature, a more severe sanction may be imposed upon him.

Josette Mc David (Ms.)  
Secretary

**February 17, 2022**