

Casinos fined for breach of social safeguard requirements

CRA censures MBS for violating gaming equipment rules in 'jackpot aunty' case

By **GRACE LEONG**

A WRONG winning message that made "jackpot aunty" Choo Hong Eng think she had won a Cash Bonus of \$416,742.11 playing slots at Marina Bay Sands (MBS) earned the casino a letter of censure from the Casino Regulatory Authority (CRA).

That along with a total of \$357,500 in fines were meted to MBS yesterday by the Singapore gaming regulator for allowing 31 people to be on its premises when they should have been barred.

Resorts World Sentosa (RWS) was fined \$140,000 for letting in 22 people it should have barred from its casino.

In all, both casinos were fined a total of \$497,500 for "failing to prevent" 53 people from entering or remaining on their premises between May 1, 2011, and Oct 31, 2011.

This is the second time both casinos have been rapped for failing to comply fully with social safeguard requirements.

In February, the two casinos were fined \$385,000 for 44 instances of lapses in their security and screening.

Of the 53 people, 17 were Singaporeans or permanent residents (PRs) who had entered the casino without paying the \$100 entry levy. Eight others were gamblers who paid the levy but overstayed the 24-hour limitation period.

Twenty-three others were allowed to enter and remain in the casino when they were under exclusion orders, while five who were aged 21 and under were allowed into the casino.

BT understands that RWS was fined for allowing two minors to get into the casino, while it received letters of censure for three other similar lapses.

Under the Casino Control Act, casino operators must ensure that Singaporeans and PRs pay the \$100 entry levy, which allows

them to be in the casinos for 24 hours. They must check that those on exclusion orders and minors are not allowed into the casinos, and they also have a duty to report to the CRA when such breaches are found.

MBS was censured yesterday for violating gaming equipment regulations when it failed to ensure that the right winning message should have been displayed when Madam Choo, a vegetarian food seller, struck jackpot on a Lotus

Evolve slot machine on Oct 18, 2011. When she hit the jackpot, the screen lit up to display the sum \$416,742.11 and the words "Cash Bonus". But she was later told the machine malfunctioned and she was of-

fered \$50,000 and a car worth \$258,962 instead. MBS later paid her \$416,742.11 to settle the matter.

The CRA, in a statement yesterday, said its investigations showed there was "no

deliberate intention by MBS to deceive or deprive her of her prize, which should have been a car".

An MBS spokesman said MBS remains committed to comply with the rules and regulations of the CRA.

An RWS spokesman said: "Resorts World Sentosa notes the Casino Regulatory Authority's disciplinary actions with regard to the social safeguard breaches at the RWS Casino. We take the lapses seriously and will continue to fine tune our entry systems and processes."

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– An RWS spokesman