

Perks for patrons: RWS fined \$600k, 3 managers face charges

By NG KAI LING

THREE managers of Resorts World Sentosa (RWS) will be charged in court today with criminal offences relating to freebies given to patrons who renew their casino levies, the police said in a statement.

This will make them the most senior casino employees to be hauled to court since the two integrated resorts opened two years ago.

Separately, the Casino Regulatory Authority (CRA) has ordered RWS to pay \$600,000 in penalty – the highest to date for a single offence.

Mr Lee Poh Yee, a senior vice-president of the company, is expected to be charged with providing false information to CRA inspectors.

Mr Lim Tze Chean, a vice-president, will likely face three counts – two for providing false information to CRA inspectors and one

forgery charge.

Assistant manager Sim Bee Ling is expected to be charged with abetment of forgery.

The two men have been suspended from work since CRA started its probe, after it was tipped off by members of the public in late May. Ms Sim has been on maternity and no-pay leave.

It found that between Feb 1 and May 31 last year, RWS employees gave perks such as hotel stays, theme park and concert tickets to 3,400 local patrons who bought annual levies, which cost \$2,000 each.

CRA said yesterday that during its probe, it suspected certain documents were forged and that the employees were giving false or misleading information.

The Straits Times understands that parts of the documents submitted to CRA were whited out.

CRA reported this to the Commercial Affairs Department, which started its own investiga-

tions last September.

CRA said it holds RWS responsible for the actions of its employees. RWS also did not provide details of this marketing programme to CRA as required.

Mr Lau Peet Meng, CRA's chief executive, said he had asked the casino operator to review its operations; this was the second time that RWS had reimbursed patrons for their entry levies.

RWS has conducted an inquiry into the breaches and set up a compliance committee.

Second Minister for Trade and Industry and for Home Affairs S. Iswaran said that CRA had firmly dealt with RWS' repeat breach and that the agency will continue to keep a close watch on the casino operators.

CRA is still investigating other RWS employees. If found to have breached the Casino Control Act, they could lose their casino employee licences.

✉ kailing@sph.com.sg