

# May-Dec '12 offences: casinos fined \$527k

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[SINGAPORE] Singapore's casino regulator has for the third time this year hit the country's two casinos hard on the wallet for various regulatory breaches.

The Casino Regulatory Authority (CRA) said yesterday that it had dished out fines totalling \$527,500 after finding the casinos guilty of five breaches last year. All the offences took place over an eight-month period from May 2012 to December 2012.

Marina Bay Sands (MBS) bore the brunt as it was made to pay \$337,500 in fines for two breaches, such as failing to prevent locals who did not have a valid entry levy from entering or remaining in the casino.

As for Resorts World Sentosa (RWS), it must fork out \$190,000 for three separate offences. The casino was guilty of, among other things, failing to prevent five minors from entering or remaining in the casino, and admitting people on the government's casino exclusion list.

"CRA takes a serious view of these lapses as the social safeguard measures have been put in place to protect the vulnerable from the harms of casino gambling," CRA said in a statement, adding that it would continue to be vigilant and take firm action against regulatory breaches.

Earlier this year, CRA imposed two separate rounds of financial penalties on the casinos. In January, MBS and RWS were fined a total of

\$230,000 for various offences that took place from November 2011 to April 2012. In February this year, MBS was ordered to pay \$475,000 for three separate breaches, including failing to ensure continuous recording of casino surveillance footage.

CRA did, however, note yesterday that both casinos have continued to put in place a range of measures over the past three years to enhance their compliance with social safeguard measures. These include conducting more thorough checks at the casino entrances before allowing people in, and investing more resources to detect Singapore citizens and permanent residents who have stayed on in the casino even after their entry levies have expired.