

## **MENTOR TEXT – BOOKLET 25**

On Saturday 31st May 2025, at approximately 9:30 a.m., a vendor was arrested at the Tunapuna Market by two police officers for selling what appeared to be an illegal substance. This report details what I witnessed during the incident.

At approximately 9:15 am, I was at the Tunapuna Market with my mother. We were walking past different stalls and tables in search of items she had on her prepared list. As we walked past the vendor in question, I observed his table carefully since he sold several of the items on my mom's list. As my mother enquired about his prices, a man dressed in a red t-shirt and blue jeans walked up to him and both men discreetly exchanged a small sack for a fifty dollar bill. As my mom bought a heap of cucumbers from the vendor and began placing the bag of cucumbers into her market bag, another man approached the vendor, and they conducted a similar transaction as the first man.

A few minutes later, while my mom and I were at another vendor's stall, sounds of police sirens were heard. A police vehicle, which was a white van with blue stripes, stopped near the market's entrance. Two police officers exited the vehicle and walked directly to the vendor's stall. As they spoke to the vendor, he pointed at the goods on his table. After their short conversation, one of the police officers proceeded to search the vendor's pockets. The officer then held one of the sacks in his hand and looked at it closely. At this point, the vendor bowed his head and leaned on a post located next to his table. The second officer then removed a pair of handcuffs from his waist and placed the handcuffs on the vendor's wrists, which was now held behind his back.

Both police officers then escorted the vendor away from his table and towards the police vehicle. The police vehicle then drove away from the market. The vendor's stall remained unmanned as other market vendors and patrons began talking about what had transpired.

