



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS 新加坡关税局 KASTAM SINGAPURA சிங்கப்பூர் கங்கத்துறை

MEDIA RELEASE

10 October 2019

Singaporean woman fined \$30,600 for evading GST on branded goods bought overseas for sale

A 35-year old Singaporean woman, Nur Sarah Aqilah Binte Sumathi, was sentenced by the State Courts on 10 October 2019 to a fine of \$30,600 for fraudulent evasion of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on goods brought into Singapore between 2015 and 2017.

Nur Sarah was convicted of two charges of fraudulent evasion of GST and another five charges were taken into consideration in the sentencing.

Based on information received, Singapore Customs initiated investigations into Nur Sarah's business activities of selling branded goods purchased from overseas, on Instagram. Investigations revealed that Nur Sarah had travelled to Europe to purchase branded goods such as handbags, wallets and shoes and brought these items back for sales without declaring the goods and paying GST. In 2017, Nur Sarah expanded her business and started to provide personal shopping and concierge services for her clients during her travels overseas via social media platforms. Similarly, she did not declare and pay GST on the goods purchased overseas upon her return to Singapore.

The investigations established that Nur Sarah did not declare 141 pieces of branded goods which she had bought from overseas between June 2015 and November 2017, worth over \$205,980 for GST payment. The total amount of GST evaded on the goods amounted to about \$14,460.

It is the responsibility of all arriving travellers to make accurate and complete declaration of the dutiable and taxable items in their possession of duty and GST payment. Under the Customs Act, any person found guilty of fraudulent evasion of GST will be liable to a fine up to 20 times the amount of tax evaded and/or be jailed for up to two years.

Members of public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of Customs duty or GST can call the Singapore Customs hotline on 1800-2330000, email customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg or use Customs@SG mobile app (which can be downloaded from the Apple Store or Google Play) to report these illegal activities.

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ANNEX



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BN2106.. Brand new! Very light and great for daily use. Tlwb price: \$800. Available with instalment plans. Whatsapp us at or email

Two of the branded goods for sale posted on Sarah's Instagram account.

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