



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS 新加坡关税局 **KASTAM SINGAPURA** சிங்கப்பூர் சுங்கத்துறை

MEDIA RELEASE

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Singaporean man fined over \$1.347 million for fraudulently evading duty and GST on imported motor vehicles

Sunil Kishinchand Bhojwani, 59, was sentenced by the State Courts on 28 February 2020 to a fine of \$1,347,146.10 for engaging in a conspiracy with three other motor vehicle traders to fraudulently evade excise duty and GST relating to 195 motor vehicles imported into Singapore between February and September 2015.

Sunil, the manager of T Kishen and Company that imported the motor vehicles, pleaded guilty to one charge while another three charges, including two charges for giving false information to Singapore Customs, were taken into consideration in the sentencing. The company is owned by Sunil's parents.

Singapore Customs officers discovered discrepancies in the Declaration of Facts (DOF) that were submitted by two motor vehicle traders for making duty/GST payment on motor vehicles. Singapore Customs officers also discovered the commercial invoices, which were submitted together with the DOF, were similar to those issued by an overseas supplier to T Kishen.

Singapore Customs officers initiated an investigation and it revealed that Sunil had purchased the 195 units of motor vehicles and in order to evade paying the full duty and GST on the motor vehicles, he negotiated with the overseas supplier to suppress the values in the invoices. Additionally, as Sunil did not want any legal responsibilities should Singapore Customs discover that the values were suppressed, he engaged three motor vehicle traders to submit the DOF and apply for the duty payment permits. The three traders were aware that the values to be declared in the duty payment permits were suppressed and were paid \$800 to \$1000 by Sunil for each motor vehicle imported. One of the three motor vehicle traders had been convicted and sentenced in court, and investigations are on-going on the other two motor vehicle traders.

The total duty and GST short-paid amounted to about \$224,520 and \$91,610 respectively.

Sunil also faced two charges for giving false statement to Singapore Customs. On two occasions in Mar 2018 and Sep 2018, Singapore Customs officer issued a notice for Sunil to attend at Customs to assist in investigation, but he claimed that he was overseas and could not turn up for investigations when in actual fact he was in Singapore.

Any person who is in any way concerned in any fraudulent evasion of, or attempt to fraudulently evade, any customs duty or excise duty shall be guilty of an offence and will be liable on conviction to a fine of up to 20 times the amount of duty and GST evaded.

Refusing to answer questions or knowingly give false information or furnishing false document are serious offences under the Customs Act. Offenders can be fined up to \$5,000 and/or jailed for up to 12 months.

Members of public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of Customs duty or GST can call the Singapore Customs hotline on 1800-233-0000, 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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