



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

MEDIA RELEASE

20 January 2020

Singaporean woman fined \$52,000 for making incorrect declarations and other offences under the Customs Act

A 50-year-old Singaporean woman was sentenced by the State Courts on 8 January 2020 to a fine of \$52,000, in default 104 days' imprisonment for multiple offences under the Customs Act.

Heng Sok Tian, Jean (王淑珍), manager of Tania Asia Logistics Pte Ltd and Free Trade Zone Logistics & Transportation, was sentenced on 8 January 2020 for making incorrect declarations, breaching permit conditions, failing to deposit dutiable goods in a licensed warehouse and furnishing false supporting documents to Singapore Customs. Heng's husband is the sole director of Tania Asia Logistics and owner of Free Trade Zone Logistics & Transportation.

Heng pleaded guilty to 12 charges, while another 41 charges were taken into consideration for the purpose of sentencing.

On 9 June 2016, Singapore Customs officers conducted a check at a warehouse located in Airport Logistics Park Singapore. Officers discovered 42 pallets of dutiable liquors and cigarettes. It was established that the goods belonged to Tania Asia Logistics and was supposed to be exported.

Investigations revealed that in 2015, Heng had made incorrect declarations to Singapore Customs on two occasions and instructed staff from Free Trade Zone Logistics & Transportation to make incorrect declarations on two other occasions to declare that the cigarettes were exported when she knew the cigarettes would not be exported and were stored in the warehouse. By storing the cigarettes in the warehouse, Heng had also breached the permit condition on five occasions as it is a requirement to store dutiable goods (cigarettes) which are not exported or transhipped on the same day or removed from a licensed warehouse, at an approved place. The warehouse was not a place approved by Singapore Customs.

Investigation also revealed that in 2013, Heng applied permits for the transhipment of liquors through Singapore on two occasions. Some of the liquors were eventually not

exported and Heng had stored them in the warehouse. In doing so, Heng had similarly breached the permit condition which required the liquors to be stored in an approved place if the liquors were not exported on the same day. Heng also furnished false documents to Singapore Customs when requested to produce supporting documents to prove liquors were exported. Heng had deliberately created fictitious invoices and altered the supporting documents of other shipments and submitted them to Singapore Customs in her attempt to mislead Singapore Customs that the liquors were exported.

A total of 16,435 cartons and 11 packets of cigarettes and 22,094 bottles of liquors were seized from the warehouse and were ordered to be forfeited by the State Courts.

Under the Customs Act, any person who makes any declaration which is untrue, incorrect or incomplete will be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000, or the equivalent of the amount of the customs duty, excise duty or tax payable, whichever is the greater amount, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, or both. Any person who breaches any condition and restriction for which a licence or permit is granted will be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000. Any person who knowingly gives false information or false document as true are serious offences will be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000, or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, or both.

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



During an inspection at Airport Logistics Park Singapore, Singapore Customs officers discovered cigarettes and liquors stored in a warehouse. As the goods were the subject of multiple offences under the Customs Act, they were ordered to be forfeited by State Courts.

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