



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

MEDIA RELEASE

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Former director fined \$550,000 for conspiring with two men to evade duties and GST on 2,700 cartons of beer

A former director of Liquorland Distribution Private Limited was sentenced by the State Courts on 5 July 2018 to a fine of \$550,000 for engaging in a conspiracy with two men to evade duties and Goods and Services Tax (GST) on 2,700 cartons of beer.

Lim Chong Ping (林宗斌), 46, Singaporean, pleaded guilty to one charge of engaging in a conspiracy to deal in uncustomed goods with the intent to defraud the Government of customs duty and excise duty. Another similar charge was taken into consideration in the sentencing.

Investigations revealed that Lim had conspired with Tan Yong Hui, Terry (陈永辉), 39, and Ooi Kok Keng (黄国庆), 46, to divert into Singapore duty-unpaid beer that had been declared to Singapore Customs for export.

Prior to August 2014, Lim suggested to Tan, the director of Global Drinks Private Limited, to purchase duty-unpaid beer from Ooi's company, Polycom Drinks Trading. The duty-unpaid beer which Tan purchased would then be resold at a marked-up price to Lim's company, Liquorland. Lim's plan was to make it appear that Liquorland had purchased beer that was duty-paid.

Ooi informed Tan that a consignment of duty-unpaid beer was coming in August 2014. Tan informed Lim about this consignment and followed Lim's instructions to purchase the beer from Ooi. On 19 August 2014, instead of sending the container loaded with beer for export, Ooi arranged to swap the beer with soft drinks and mineral water. The

beer was then transported to a warehouse in Changi South Avenue, where Tan was the manager, on 20 August 2014.

On 21 August 2014, Singapore Customs conducted an operation and seized the duty-unpaid beer, soft drinks and mineral water.

The total duty and GST involved amounted to about \$125,220.

For their involvement in duties and GST evasion, Ooi and Tan were sentenced by the State Courts to court fines of \$900,000 and \$450,000 on 26 August 2016 and 24 October 2016 respectively. As Ooi was unable to pay the fine, he served nine months' jail in default.

Under the Customs Act, any person who is guilty of dealing with dutiable goods with the intention to defraud the Government of any duty and GST will be liable on conviction to a fine of up to 20 times the amount of duty and GST evaded.

Members of the public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of customs duty or GST can call the Singapore Customs hotline on 1800-2330000 or email customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg

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ANNEX



Lim suggested to Tan to purchase duty-unpaid beer from Ooi's company and subsequently resell the beer to Lim's company.



A container of 2,700 cartons of duty-unpaid beer meant for export was swapped with soft drinks and mineral water before it was attempted to be exported out of Singapore. However, the conspiracy by Lim, Tan and Ooi was uncovered by Singapore Customs officers.

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