



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS 新加坡关税局 KASTAM SINGAPURA சிங்கப்பூர் சுங்கத்துறை

MEDIA RELEASE

1 October 2020

Singaporean man fined \$418,000 for fraudulently evading duties and GST and failing to retain documents and records

The sole proprietor of Zion Auto Imports, Tan Wee Leng (Chen Weilong), aged 43, was sentenced by the State Courts on 1 October 2020 to a fine of \$418,000 in default 48 weeks' imprisonment for engaging in a conspiracy with three other motor vehicle traders to fraudulently evade excise duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) relating to motor vehicles imported into Singapore, and for failing to retain documents and records relating to the importation of motor vehicles without reasonable excuse.

Tan pleaded guilty to two charges while another three charges were taken into consideration during the sentencing. Prior to the sentencing, Tan also voluntarily surrendered \$34,000 to the State, which were the profits gained from his criminal conduct.

In May 2015, Singapore Customs discovered discrepancies in the Declaration of Facts that were submitted by Zion Auto Imports and another motor vehicle trader in making duty and GST payments on motor vehicles.

Singapore Customs initiated an investigation which revealed that Tan was engaged by a Sunil Kishinchand Bhojwani (Sunil) of T Kishen and Company, to apply for duty payment permits with suppressed values for 56 motor vehicles between March and May 2015. In return, he was paid up to \$2,000 for each permit. Sunil and Tang Luan Yew, a motor vehicle trader who was also engaged by Sunil to fraudulently evade duty and GST, have been convicted and sentenced in court on 28 February 2020 and 21 September 2017 respectively. Investigations are on-going on a third motor vehicle trader.

Tan was also found to have declared to Singapore Customs suppressed values of an additional 37 motor vehicles between March and July 2015, meant for another car retail business, Zion Auto Gallery, which was registered under his wife.

The total duty and GST short-paid by Tan amounted to about \$117,060 and \$49,160 respectively.

Tan also faced another charge for failing to retain documents and records relating to the importation of motor vehicles without reasonable excuse. During the investigations, Tan informed officers that the trade documents relating to Zion Auto Imports were misplaced and he made no attempts to recover the lost documents.

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.

Failing to retain documents and records relating to importation and exportation of dutiable goods for a period not less than five years without reasonable excuse are serious offences under the Customs Act. Offenders can be fined up to \$10,000 and/or jailed for up to three years.

Members of public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of Customs duty or GST can call the Singapore Customs hotline on 1800-233-000, 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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Singapore Customs

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