



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

MEDIA RELEASE

14 January 2021

Singaporean man fined \$6,000 for submitting falsified documents to Singapore Customs

A Singaporean man was sentenced by the State Courts on 14 January 2021 to a fine of \$6,000, in default 30 days' imprisonment, for submitting falsified documents to Singapore Customs in May 2020 relating to the export of two shipments of cigarettes to the United Kingdom.

Ekbal Din s/o Shaik Dawood, 52, the sole proprietor of a freight forwarding business Turino Export Import ("Turino"), pleaded guilty to two charges of submitting falsified documents to Singapore Customs.

In January and February 2020, Turino exported two shipments from Singapore to the United Kingdom, which were found to contain 1,938 cartons of cigarettes, instead of only Milo powder which was stated in the bills of lading (BLs). The two shipments were seized by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs of the United Kingdom.

Singapore Customs initiated an investigation and requested Turino for the documents relating to the two shipments. Ekbal submitted two BLs to Singapore Customs, which stated that the shipments contained cigarettes and Milo powder. The two BLs submitted by Ekbal to Singapore Customs were found to be different from the original BLs provided by the shipping line and booking agent, which stated that the shipments only contained Milo powder.

Further investigations revealed that Ekbal had submitted the falsified BLs to Singapore Customs under the instructions of an unknown man, who had engaged Ekbal to set up Turino for import and export of goods. By allowing the man to use Turino as the exporter of the two shipments, Ekbal had facilitated the transnational smuggling of two shipments of cigarettes from Singapore to the United Kingdom.

"Singapore Customs does not condone the use of our port and logistics facilities for transnational smuggling," said Head of Trade Investigation Branch Mr Goh Hoon Lip.

“Stern actions will be taken against errant traders to maintain Singapore’s status as a trusted global trade hub,” said Mr Goh.

Submitting false documents to Singapore Customs are serious offences under the Customs Act. Any person who counterfeits or falsifies, or uses, when counterfeited or falsified, any document which may be required under the Customs Act shall be guilty of an offence and will be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000, or the equivalent of the amount of duty and Goods and Services Tax payable, whichever is the greater amount 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 1800-233-000 or email customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg to report these illegal activities.

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