

## **Filipino couple fined \$12,000 in total for the illegal possession of meat products for the purpose of sale**

Savemore Grocery Pte Ltd and Belisse Beauty Sanctuary Pte Ltd were fined \$2,500 and \$3,500 by the Court respectively on 22 January 2024 for illegally possessing meat products for the purpose of sale. Their directors, a Filipino couple, were also fined for failing to exercise due diligence to prevent the offence from being committed. Chicote Ruel Cenidoza, director of Savemore Grocery, was fined \$2,500, while Chicote Bernadeth Bautista, director of Belisse Beauty Sanctuary, was fined \$3,500.

2. On 18 July 2022, Singapore Food Agency (SFA) officers conducted an inspection at Savemore Grocery Pte Ltd and Belisse Beauty Sanctuary Pte Ltd at Lucky Plaza upon receiving feedback that illegal meat products were sold at the two shops. During the inspection, SFA officers found about 18kg of assorted meat products stored in Savemore Grocery and 87kg of assorted meat products stored in Belisse Beauty Sanctuary, which were imported from the Philippines and the USA without a valid import license and were from unaccredited sources. The products were seized by SFA.



*The illegally imported meat products were seized by SFA. (Photo: SFA)*

3. In Singapore, food imports must meet SFA's requirements. Illegally imported food products are of unknown sources and pose a food safety risk. Food can only be imported by licensed importers and every consignment must be declared and accompanied with a valid import permit. In addition, meat and its products can only be imported from accredited sources in approved countries that comply with Singapore's food safety requirements.

4. Offenders who import meat products illegally from unapproved sources are liable to a fine of \$50,000 and/or imprisonment of up to two years and, in the case of a subsequent conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$100,000 and/or to imprisonment of up to three years.

**Issued by the Singapore Food Agency**

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