

Man fined \$12,600 for possessing, and abetting the illegal import of food items

35-year-old Ong Fu Yong was fined \$12,000 for the possession of illegally imported duck's blood and dried beef slices. He was fined an additional \$600 for abetting the illegal import of salted duck eggs from China. The items were intended for sale.

2 Acting on a tip-off, an Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) officer posed as a potential buyer on Ong Fu Yong's WeChat account. Ong was nabbed on 2 November 2017 when he delivered the items ordered by the AVA officer. The AVA officer found 60 kilograms of duck's blood, 0.5 kilograms of dried beef and 36 pieces of salted duck eggs in his possession. All of the items were illegally imported from China.

3 Investigation revealed that Ong had been soliciting travellers to smuggle food and meat products from China since 2016, for sale on WeChat. In return, Ong would offer the travellers a transport fee as payment for their extra baggage allowance. Thereafter, Ong would post his products in his WeChat account for sales.

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Duck's blood, salted duck eggs and dried beef from China found in Ong's possession (Photo source: AVA)

4 Animal blood food products, such as duck's blood, are prohibited in Singapore as blood can easily support the growth of bacteria and harbour diseases. Unhygienic harvesting of blood can also result in the introduction of food borne pathogens into blood food products. Meat, eggs, and their products, can only be imported from accredited sources in approved countries that comply with our food safety standards and requirements.

5 Illegally imported food products are from unknown sources. Apart from being a food safety risk, they also may pose a risk to our public and animal health. Any person who illegally imports meat products from unapproved sources is liable to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and/or 2 years' jail term or to both for first conviction, and in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$100,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or to both.

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