

## **Man sentenced to 8 months' jail for abetting the illegal import of 121 live birds and animal cruelty**

30-year-old Sudrak A/L Naum was sentenced to five months' jail for abetting the import of 44 Fischer's Lovebirds, a protected species under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), without a permit and three months' jail for abetting animal cruelty. Another sentence of three month's jail for abetting the illegal import of 77 live birds will run concurrently.

2 On 26 February 2018, Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) officers found 121 live birds in 10 boxes in a Malaysian-registered tour bus driven by Sudrak. The birds were concealed in a compartment between the driver and front right tyre. The case was referred to the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) for investigations.

3 The manner and poor conditions of transporting the birds caused them unnecessary pain and suffering. Eight birds were found dead on arrival and more have since died. Investigations also revealed that another man travelling with Sudrak had been commissioned to smuggle the birds to an unknown person in Singapore. The man has since fled the country.



10 boxes containing the live birds (Photo source: AVA)

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## **Public advisory**

4 Animals that are smuggled into Singapore are of unknown health status and may introduce exotic diseases, such as bird flu, into the country. The import of animals and birds without a licence is an offence under the Animals and Birds Act. Any person, on conviction, is liable to a fine of up to S\$10,000, or imprisonment of up to 12 months or to both.

5 In addition, CITES permits are required for any import, export and re-export of CITES species, including their parts and products. Under the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act, offenders can be fined up to S\$50,000 per scheduled species (not exceeding a maximum aggregate of S\$500,000) and/or imprisonment of up to two years upon conviction. Furthermore, any person who causes any unnecessary pain or suffering to any animal shall be liable upon conviction to a fine of up to S\$15,000 or imprisonment of up to 18 months or to both.

6 AVA would like to remind travellers against bringing live animals, birds and insects into Singapore without a proper permit. The public can refer to AVA's website or download AVA's mobile app, SG TravelKaki (available free-of-charge from iTunes and the Google Play store), for more information on bringing back animals from overseas travels.

**Issued by the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore**

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