



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
24 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**S ISWARAN PLEADS GUILTY AND CONVICTED OF FOUR CHARGES  
UNDER S 165 AND ONE CHARGE UNDER S 204A OF THE PENAL  
CODE, FOR OBTAINING GIFTS FROM TWO LOCAL BUSINESSMEN  
AND OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE**

On 24 September 2024, S Iswaran pleaded guilty to and was convicted in the High Court of four charges for obtaining gifts from two local businessmen, Ong Beng Seng (“Ong”) and Lum Kok Seng (“Lum”), while a Minister of the Government of Singapore, under s 165 of the Penal Code. He also pleaded guilty to and was convicted of one charge for obstruction of justice under s 204A(a) of the Penal Code. Another 30 charges under s 165 of the Penal Code were taken into consideration for sentencing.

2 In total, the value of gifts obtained by Iswaran amounted to S\$403,297.92. In the course of investigations into the offences, the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (“CPIB”) had seized various items comprising wine and whisky, golf clubs and a Brompton T-Line bicycle worth a total of S\$17,291.97 from Iswaran. The accused agreed for these items to be forfeited to the State. The accused also disgorged S\$380,305.95 to the State, representing the value of the gifts which he consumed, including F1 tickets, overseas events tickets and alcohol.

Proceeded Charges

3 The details of the four charges under s 165 of the Penal Code that Iswaran was convicted of are as follows:

- a) In September 2017, obtaining ten Green Room tickets to the 2017 Singapore Formula 1 Grand Prix with a value of S\$42,265 from Ong;
- b) In December 2022, obtaining from Ong:

- i. an outbound flight on Ong’s private plane from Singapore to Doha on 10 December with a value of about US\$7,700 (about S\$10,410,40);
  - ii. one night’s stay in Four Seasons Hotel Doha on 10 December with a value of S\$4,737.63;
  - iii. a business class flight from Doha to Singapore on 11 December with a value of S\$5,700;
- c) In January 2022, obtaining 14 bottles of wine and whisky worth about S\$3,255.75, from Lum; and
- d) In June 2022, obtaining a Brompton T-Line Bicycle with a value of S\$7,907.50 from Lum.

4 In relation to paragraphs 3(a) and 3(b), Iswaran knew that Ong was concerned in business transacted, namely, the performance of the Facilitation Agreement between Singapore GP Pte Ltd and the Singapore Tourism Board in 2012 and 2022 respectively, which had a connection with his official functions as Minister and Chairman of the F1 Steering Committee.

5 In relation to paragraphs 3(c) and 3(d), Iswaran also knew that Lum was concerned in business transacted, namely, the performance of the T315 contract between Lum Chang Building Contractors Pte Ltd and the Land Transport Authority for “Addition and Alteration Works to Existing Tanah Merah Station and Existing Viaducts”, which had a connection with his official functions as Minister.

6 Iswaran was also convicted of one charge under s 204A(a) of the Penal Code for making a payment of S\$5,700 on or about 25 May 2023 to Singapore GP Pte Ltd for the cost of the business class flight ticket from Doha to Singapore that he took on 11 December 2022 at Ong’s expense. He did this knowing that his act of making the payment was likely to obstruct the course of justice, by making it less likely that he would be investigated by the CPIB in relation to the Doha trip.

7 Sentencing has been adjourned by the Court to a later date.

8 Any person who is convicted under s 165 of the Penal Code can be fined or sentenced to imprisonment of up to two years or both. Any person who is convicted under s 204A(a) of the Penal Code can be fined or sentenced to imprisonment of up to seven years or both.

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