

# Singapore: too hot for the corrupted

## CASE

## SUMMARY OF FACTS

## POINTS OF INTEREST

### Navi Marine Services Pte Ltd



Chua Kim Leng Timothy was a director of bunkering firm, Navi Marine Services. He was involved in giving bribes to surveyors to overlook the quantity and quality of fuel supplied. Chua was sentenced in November 2003 to 10 months' imprisonment and fined S\$410,000 for corruption. All 42 surveyors involved pleaded guilty to accepting bribes and were fined between S\$6,000 to S\$100,000 for corruption.

Corruption in the bunkering industry is a perennial challenge that persists till this day as it is a lucrative scheme.

The Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau's (CPIB) perseverance ensures that corruption does not impede growth in vital industries like the maritime sector.

### Glenn Defense Marine Asia (GDMA)



Gursharan Kaur Sharon Rachael, a former lead contract specialist of the US Navy, was sentenced to two years and nine months' jail for corruption and money laundering offences in July 2018. She had earlier been charged in 2015 for receiving more than S\$130,000 in bribes from Leonard Glenn Francis, the Malaysian CEO of maritime services GDMA, in exchange for sensitive US Navy information.

The CPIB worked closely with the US Department of Justice (DOJ), US Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS) and the US Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) to conduct a joint investigation that resulted in the prosecution of Gursharan Kaur Sharon Rachael.

### Apple Inc



In December 2013, Chua Kim Guan (left), former managing director of Jin Li Mould Manufacturing and Ang Kok Kiat (right), ex-sales director, were found guilty of bribing Paul Devine, a global supply manager at Apple Inc in exchange for information that could help Jin Li Mould secure contracts.

Devine pleaded guilty earlier in the US Federal Court in February 2011 to wire fraud, conspiracy and money laundering.

The case, involving a well-known multinational corporation, served to warn companies and individuals of the CPIB's determination and tenacity to take the offenders to task.

### Peter Lim Sin Pang



Peter Lim Sin Pang was the former commissioner of the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) found guilty of corruptly obtaining sexual gratification on 10 occasions between May 2010 and November 2011 from female vendors in exchange for contract awards with SCDF. In June 2013, he was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, and was officially dismissed from the public service on Aug 31, 2013.

The government and the bureau will prosecute offenders even if it meant embarrassment for the government. The strong political will and zero tolerance towards corruption foster public confidence and investors' confidence.

### Choy Hon Tim



Choy Hon Tim was former deputy chief executive (operations) of the Public Utilities Board. He fled Singapore, but was eventually brought back and charged on Oct 27, 1995 for criminal conspiracy and accepting bribes totalling around S\$13.85 million. He was sentenced to prison for 14 years.

A corruption case involving a senior public officer and the largest total amount of bribe monies in the public sector.

### Andrew Goh Keng Guan



Andrew Goh Keng Guan was the assistant head of the Talent Group with the Economic Development Board's (EDB) Resource Development Division. He was responsible for recommending applications for Permanent Residence (PR) under the EDB's Deposit Scheme.

In 1998, Goh processed an application for Tse Kengchun, a Chinese businessman. Subsequently, Goh asked for a loan from Tse. When Goh wanted to repay the loan, Tse told him to keep it as a token of his gratitude for help in his PR application. Subsequently, Goh demanded S\$50,000 per successful application from Tse when the latter approached Goh for help for applications for his Chinese associates.

Goh was sentenced to 26 months' imprisonment and ordered to pay a penalty of S\$380,000.

A case that could have serious consequences as it might compromise the security of the nation if dubious characters are not appropriately assessed for PR applications. As the scheme targeted entrepreneurs, their activities might tarnish the international reputation of Singapore or they may make use of Singapore's location as a financial hub to conduct illicit activities such as money laundering. This has far-reaching consequences negatively impacting Singapore as a credible locale for foreign investments.