



**AGRI-FOOD & VETERINARY AUTHORITY
AND IMMIGRATION & CHECKPOINTS AUTHORITY
JOINT NEWS RELEASE**

Two men fined \$4,000 each for illegal import of hornbill

29-year-old Syed Muhammad Bin Syed Hassan and 35-year-old Mohammed Bin Ali were fined \$4,000 each today for the illegal import of a Black hornbill (*Anthracoceros malayanus*) chick from Malaysia. The Black hornbill is a protected species under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

2 On 12 May 2018, the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) was alerted by the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) on the detection of a live chick hidden in a paper bag in the front compartment of a Malaysian-registered motorcycle at Woodlands Checkpoint. Syed Muhammad did not have the necessary licence to bring in the CITES-protected bird. The Black hornbill was seized, and is now under the care of Wildlife Reserves Singapore.

3 AVA's investigation revealed that Mohammed had arranged for Syed Muhammad to transport and deliver the bird to him.



The Black hornbill (Photo: AVA)



The Black hornbill was hidden in a paper bag in the front compartment of a motorcycle (Photo: AVA)

Public advisory

4 Our borders are our first line of defence in safeguarding Singapore's safety and security. The security checks are critical to our nation's security. ICA will continue to conduct security checks on passengers and vehicles at the checkpoints to prevent attempts to smuggle in undesirable persons, drugs, weapons, explosives and other contrabands. Animals that are smuggled into Singapore are of unknown health status and may introduce exotic diseases, such as bird flu, into the country.

5 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. Importation of any CITES-protected

species without CITES permits is also an offence. Offenders can be fined up to \$50,000 per CITES-listed animal (not exceeding a maximum aggregate of \$500,000) and/or up to two years imprisonment. In addition, if the animals or birds were subjected to unnecessary suffering or pain, the offender may also be liable, on conviction, to a maximum fine of \$10,000 and/or imprisonment for a term of up to 12 months.

6 AVA would like to remind travellers against the illegal import of live animals, birds and insects into Singapore. 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.

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