

Media Releases 2010

Accused pleads guilty to charges of possession and dealing in illicit goods

Durban 01 June 2010 – Darwood Moosa a 23 year-old South African male pleaded guilty to charges of possession and dealing in illicit goods in the Durban Regional Court on 27 May 2010. Mr. Moosa, sold 18 master cases or 9000 packets of cigarettes for R20 000, which did not have diamond stamp impression on the packets.

Cigarettes are only legally authorised for consumption in South Africa if they possess the diamond stamp impression and are accompanied by the correct health warning as required by the Department of Health.

Mr Moosa failed to provide SARS with information that could prove he had legally acquired and imported the cigarettes into South Africa. As a result of Mr. Moosa's actions, the revenue or tax loss to SARS amounted to approximately R 85 000.

Mr Moosa was fined R10 000 or 12 months imprisonment. He also received a further 3 years imprisonment which is wholly suspended for a period of 5 years on condition that he is not convicted of a similar offence during the same period.

SARS encourages members of the public to be alert of suspicious business activities and report such suspicions to our toll free Fraud and Anti Corruption hotline on 0800 00 28 70.

ENDS