

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Manager of Unregistered Private Education Institution Pleads Guilty to Contravening the Private Education Act**

Mr Natarajan Panneer Selvam, a manager of Kalaibharathi International School Private Limited (KBI), an unregistered private education provider, has pleaded guilty to the following contraventions of the Private Education (PE) Act and its Regulations:

- Section 34(1)(a) – For knowingly assisting an unregistered private education institution to provide private education.
- Section 34(6) – For failing to comply with directions issued by the CPE to refund the course fees received from students.

2. KBI had collected monies amounting to \$82,083.88 between February and June 2012 from 12 students who had enrolled for full-time studies under the Indian national primary/secondary school curriculum. <sup>1</sup>At the time, KBI was not a registered PEI as its application for registration was still being processed. KBI had been informed by the CPE that it must not advertise, collect fees, or conduct classes before its application for registration was approved. KBI's application for registration was refused on 13 December 2012.

3. The CPE subsequently issued written directions for KBI to refund the full course fees to its students. When KBI did not comply with the directions, the CPE proceeded to file charges with the Magistrate's Court.

4. Mr Selvam has pleaded guilty to the above two charges and was fined \$18,000 and in default 18 weeks' jail on 17 February 2014. Ms Panneerselvam Susanna, another manager of KBI, was issued with a stern warning in lieu of prosecution for her auxiliary role in the commission of the offences.

5. According to the Private Education Act, the punishment for each of the offence under Section 34(1)(a) and Section 34(6) is a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, or both. In the case of a continuing offence, there is a further fine not exceeding \$1,000 for every day or part thereof during which the offence continues after conviction.

6. The CPE's role as a regulator includes ensuring that only registered private education institutions are allowed to offer private education and that they meet and maintain prescribed standards for the protection of students. The CPE will continue to monitor the industry closely and will not hesitate to take errant operators to task should they contravene the PE Act and its Regulations.

7. Students interested to enrol in a PEI are advised to check the CPE website at [ww.cpe.gov.sg](http://ww.cpe.gov.sg) for a list of registered PEIs, or contact the CPE at 6592 2108 or [CPE\\_CONTACT@cpe.gov.sg](mailto:CPE_CONTACT@cpe.gov.sg) for clarification.

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<sup>1</sup> The curriculum is based on the Central Board of Secondary Education (CB SE) syllabus which KBI had represented itself to be conducting.