

Elon Musk Tesla Money Laundering Board Of Directors As Full Of Fraud And Corruption As Musk

By Politico Team 2

Birds of a feather stick together and the Jurvetson, Draper, Musk, et al; clan of corruption runs deep.

The Board of Directors can't operate their scam without the whole pack of thieves and liars in place. An outsider will break theirs swamp of tax evasion, Dark Money political bribes, off-shore cash, self-dealing, book-cooking, real estate fraud, expense padding and other nefarious deeds.

Tesla faces a bumpy road



Rob Lever ,

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Washington (AFP) - Tesla has promised to revolutionize the automobile, but the high-end electric car maker keeps hitting road blocks created by its founder Elon Musk's erratic behavior and considerable ego.

Those traits contributed to fraud charges brought against Musk on Thursday by federal regulators, a potentially serious blow coming just as Tesla is ramping up efforts to become a mainstream manufacturer.

But on Saturday, the brilliant billionaire escaped the worst after reaching a settlement with the US Securities and Exchange Commission that leaves him as chief executive while forcing him to step down as chairman and pay a \$20 million fine.

The settlement, which will leave the 47-year-old overseeing Tesla's daily operations, provides at least a momentary reprieve from the company's many challenges -- including Musk's own sometimes counterproductive instincts.

Tesla is at something of a turning point. It has been accelerating production of its Model 3, the mass-market vehicle with a potential to disrupt the entire automotive sector -- yet the company remains burdened by billions in debt and has yet to show a profit.

The SEC filing on Thursday alleged that Musk committed securities fraud by misleading investors when he tweeted on August 7 that he had "funding secured" to privatize the electric automaker at \$420 a share, a comment that caused Tesla's share price to briefly spike.

The case underscored doubts about the mercurial entrepreneur's ability to lead Tesla, while at the same time highlighting the confidence some retain in him as a necessary visionary force behind the company.

"Despite Musk's recent erratic behavior, we think most investors want him to remain with the company and they value shares at what we view as extremely lofty multiples given the potential for Musk's vision to drive future growth," Garrett Nelson of the research firm CFRA said in a note to clients.

Analyst David Whiston at Morningstar reiterated his comments from a month earlier that "Musk is effectively Tesla, and without him Tesla is just a capital-intensive automaker burning cash with too much debt due soon."

Tesla shares have skidded nearly 30 percent from their peak in early August, amid growing concerns on the company's ability to expand without its founder.

- Criminal case coming? -

Tesla's brash leader has faced increased scrutiny over his volatile behavior, including smoking marijuana during a podcast interview and assailing a man involved in the Thailand cave rescue as a "pedo guy."

Musk initially rejected the SEC's allegations on Thursday, calling the charges baseless and vowing to defend himself. But investor pressure amid the tanking share prices may have given him second thoughts.

Tesla has continued to express support for Musk, saying the company and its directors "are fully confident in Elon, his integrity, and his leadership."

The SEC settlement may not end Musk's regulatory troubles, however, since there are reports of a pending criminal investigation as well.

Keri Axel, a former federal prosecutor and SEC enforcement lawyer who now is in private practice, said the swift filing of charges -- so soon after Musk's August comments -- raised eyebrows in the legal community.

"The timing of this is so fast, that seems very aggressive," Axel told AFP.

"One possibility is that the SEC is cooperating with criminal authorities" preparing to file additional charges.