



## SINGAPORE CUSTOMS MEDIA RELEASE

### FOUR PERSONS CHARGED FOR FRAUDULENT EVASION OF DUTY & GST ON IMPORT OF JAPANESE CARS

Singapore Customs today arrested three Singaporean men and one woman, who is a Singapore Permanent Resident, for fraudulent evasion of duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) by submitting invoices that showed incorrect values for the import of motor cars from Japan.

2 Mr Ng Wee Siang (aged 30), Mr Han Wan Kwang (aged 35) and Mr Han Ong Guan (aged 72) face 26 charges each for evasion of excise duty and GST involving the import of 34 units of Japanese cars of various makes. The under-declaration had resulted in the short payment of duty and GST amounting to \$31,899.28. In addition, Han Wan Kwang and Han Ong Guan face nine counts each of furnishing money for the purchase of the vehicles. The offences took place between February to August 2005. This is the first time Singapore Customs is prosecuting someone for furnishing money to facilitate the fraudulent evasion of duty and GST on imported motor vehicles.

3 Ms Tan Wei Gek (aged 29) faces 14 charges for evasion of duty and GST amounting to \$14,950.37 involving the import of 17 of the vehicles.

4 The four will be charged in court on 3 March 2009.

5 Between November 2008 and January 2009, Singapore Customs had charged seven car importers in court for evasion of excise duty and GST amounting to \$3.37 million on over 3,000 cars. The cases are ongoing.

6 Under the Customs Act, it is the responsibility of the importers to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the values and other related costs declared to Singapore Customs. Under-declaration of the value is a serious offence as it will result in short payment of duty, GST and Additional Registration Fee (ARF). All cases of revenue evasion and violations of customs regulations are investigated, and action will be taken against the errant importers or any persons concerned in abetting the fraudulent evasion of duty and GST. Any person who is guilty of fraudulent evasion of duties or GST will be liable on conviction to a fine of up to 20 times the amount of duties and GST evaded or, in default, a jail sentence. Any person who knowingly advances or furnishes money for the establishment or conducting of any business dealing with uncustomed goods shall be liable on conviction to a fine of between \$100,000 and \$1 million and shall also be liable to imprisonment of up to six years. In addition to the penalties meted out by the court, the offenders are also required to make good the duty and GST short-paid to the government.

**ISSUED BY: SINGAPORE CUSTOMS (新加坡关税局) (KASTAM SINGAPURA)**

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