



## SINGAPORE CUSTOMS MEDIA RELEASE

### THREE MEN ARRESTED FOR OBSTRUCTING SINGAPORE CUSTOMS OFFICERS IN THEIR INVESTIGATION

Singapore Customs today arrested two men for obstructing the seizure of goods and documents. Another man was also arrested for abetting the commission of the offence.

2 Mr Ong Soon Leng (Singapore Permanent Resident, aged 29) and Mr Cheng Zhiyi (Singaporean, aged 25) both face the charge of obstructing Customs officers in their execution of duty by removing items which were to be seized for investigation into suspected fraudulent evasion of Goods & Services Tax (GST). The items involved were 80 sets of cable TV set-top boxes, 299 sets of mobile phones and some documents. Mr Yeo Hock Leong (Singaporean, aged 29) faces the charge of abetting Ong to remove the items. The offences occurred at a shop at Pearl Centre on 28 October 2008.

3 The three men will be charged in court on 5 March 2009.

4 Investigations into the suspected fraudulent evasion of GST by the company are ongoing.

5 Singapore Customs had arrested two men for a similar offence in September 2007. The men had attempted to remove a file which had been seized earlier for an investigation. The men were convicted – one was fined a total of \$12,000 for two counts of the offence and the other \$8,000.

6 Under Section 137 of the Customs Act, any person who is guilty of the offence of obstructing any Customs officer in the seizure of any items for the purpose of their investigation will be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 18 months or to both. Under Section 140 of the same Act, any person who abets the commission of such offence will be similarly punished.

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

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**For media queries, please contact:**

Mrs Chew Lai Leng  
Head, Corporate Communications  
DID: 6355-2129  
Email: [woon\\_lai\\_leng@customs.gov.sg](mailto:woon_lai_leng@customs.gov.sg)

Lynn Ng  
Senior Corporate Communications Officer  
DID: 6355-2127  
Email: [lynn\\_ng@customs.gov.sg](mailto:lynn_ng@customs.gov.sg)