



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS 新加坡关税局 **KASTAM SINGAPURA** சிங்கப்பூர் சுங்கத்துறை

MEDIA RELEASE

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Father and son fined \$1.02 million each for conspiring to under-declare values of 34 imported cars and furnishing money to buy the cars

A Singaporean man and his son were sentenced by the court last Friday to fines of \$1,021,000 each (or in default 32 weeks' imprisonment) for conspiring to under-declare the values of 34 cars imported from Japan and furnishing money for the purchase of these cars.

Han Ong Guan, 76, and his son Jeremy Han Wan Kwang, 39, were found guilty of 35 charges each. Of the 35 charges, 26 were related to incorrect declarations of the values of the cars, which were imported between February and August 2005. The remaining nine charges were related to the furnishing of money for the purchase of these cars.

The total excise duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded as a result of the under-declaration exceeded S\$24,500 and S\$7,300 respectively.

Singapore Customs began investigating the incorrect declarations on the imported cars of various marques in January 2006.

The investigations revealed that the father and son had conspired with Ng Wee Siang, 34, and Tan Wei Gek, 33, to under-declare the values of the cars. The Hans had also furnished money for the purchase of these cars.

All four were subsequently arrested by Singapore Customs and charged in court in March 2009.

Ng and Tan, who pleaded guilty to respectively eight and four charges related to incorrect declarations of the values of the cars, were sentenced by the court in February 2012. They had faced another 18 and 10 charges respectively, which were taken into consideration in the sentencing. Ng was sentenced by the court to fines totalling \$24,752.94, and Tan was sentenced to fines totalling \$12,771.62.

Advisory from Singapore Customs

Under the Customs Act, it is the responsibility of importers to ensure the accuracy and completeness of declarations submitted to Singapore Customs. Any person who is guilty of making incorrect declarations resulting in under-payment of duty/GST will be liable on conviction to a fine of up to 20 times the duty/GST payable or \$5,000 per charge, whichever is higher, or imprisonment not exceeding two years, or to both for

repeat offenders. Any abettor or conspirator will also be liable for the same punishment on conviction.

Any person guilty of furnishing money for the purpose of establishing or conducting any business comprising the sale, purchase, hire, receipt, concealment or disposal, or dealing of uncustomed goods shall be liable on conviction to a fine of up to \$1 million, subject to a minimum fine of \$100,000. He/she shall also be liable to an imprisonment term not exceeding six years.

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