



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

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

14 March 2016

### **Duo fined \$3.98m each for diverting duty-unpaid liquor and beer declared for export into Singapore market**

Two men were sentenced by the State Courts on 10 March 2016 to a fine of \$3,984,000 each, or in default 54 months and one week of imprisonment, for fraudulent evasion of duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Song Hock Kee, 55, and Tan Lip Cheong, 51, each pleaded guilty to 18 charges. Another 30 charges were taken into consideration in the sentencing. The total duty and GST involved exceeded \$890,000.

Song, who was the director of Windemac Private Limited, submitted two permit declarations to Singapore Customs for the export of 51,558 bottles of liquor, wine and beer in February 2015.

Instead of exporting all the bottles, Song worked with Tan, the manager of Windemac, to retain 9,810 bottles of duty-unpaid liquor and beer, which they intended to sell to their customers in Singapore at a profit.

Investigations revealed that Song and Tan had diverted duty-unpaid liquor meant for export into the Singapore market on nine previous occasions.

“Fraudulent evasion of duty and GST are serious offences,” said Ms Fauziah Abdul Sani, Head of Trade Investigation Branch, Singapore Customs. “We are keeping a close watch on such illegal activities, and offenders will be severely punished under the law.”

Under the Customs Act, any person who is guilty of dealing with dutiable goods with the intention to defraud the Government of any duty and GST will be liable on conviction to a fine of up to 20 times the amount of duty and GST evaded.

Members of the public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of customs duty or GST can contact Singapore Customs on 1800-2330000, email [customs\\_intelligence@customs.gov.sg](mailto:customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg), or use the Customs@SG mobile app (which can be downloaded from the Apple Store or Google Play) to report these illegal activities.

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## **ANNEX**



Some of the duty-unpaid liquor and beer declared for export but diverted into the Singapore market.