

MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate

17 April 2025

TWO SINGAPOREANS FINED OVER \$20,000 FOR TAX EVASION ON BRANDED GOODS

Singapore, 17 April 2025 – On 14 April 2025, the State Courts convicted two 41-year-old Singaporean men, Eugene Wey ("Wey") and Song Qingguang Daniel ("Song"), for fraudulent evasion of Goods and Services Tax (GST) and causing incorrect declaration to be made to Singapore Customs ("Customs"). Wey and Song were fined \$18,500 and \$2,000 respectively. The goods which had been seized for investigation were ordered to be forfeited.

2 Wey pleaded guilty to one charge of fraudulent evasion of GST amounting to about \$1,788 on branded goods valued at around \$25,548. Song pleaded guilty to one charge of causing an incorrect declaration that led to a GST shortfall of about \$368 on branded goods valued at around \$5,858. Another similar charge was taken into consideration during the sentencing for Song.

3 On 8 March 2022, Wey and Song had arrived in Singapore after a trip to France, when Wey was referred for further checks by an Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) officer when they approached the Green Channel. When asked if he had anything in his luggage to declare, Wey replied that he did not. However, upon inspection, 24 pieces of branded goods were found in his luggage. Investigations revealed that Wey and Song had travelled to France in late February 2022 to source and purchase branded goods for customers of Eplayground SG LLP ("Eplayground"), a company that Song had invested in. Eplayground's business involved selling branded goods from Europe, with Song leading the Paris Team that visited boutiques and luxury goods outlets in Paris to purchase branded goods on behalf of the customers. In addition to purchasing goods on behalf of customers, Wey had also purchased branded goods for his relatives and friends. Despite knowing that the goods were subject to GST and must be declared, Wey chose to exit via the Green Channel to avoid paying the GST.

5 On 9 March 2022, Customs officers conducted checks at Eplayground's office and found a parcel shipped via air freight from France. The description of the contents and the values stated on the air waybill did not match the actual contents and values. The goods were seized. Investigations revealed that the goods were shipped to Singapore by Song during the trip. However, Song failed to ensure that the correct import value was provided, which led to the freight company incorrectly declaring the import value in the import declaration. The GST shortfall amounted to about \$368.

6 Any person who is in any way concerned in fraudulent evasion of, or attempt to fraudulently evade, any duty or GST shall be guilty of an offence and will be liable on conviction to a fine of up to 20 times the amount of duty and GST evaded and/or imprisonment for up to two years.

7 Any person who makes any declaration which is untrue, incorrect or incomplete will be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000, or the equivalent of the amount of the customs duty, excise duty or tax payable, whichever is the greater amount, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, or both. Goods involved in the commission of the offences are liable for forfeiture.

8 Members of public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of duty or GST can report it to Customs at <u>https://go.gov.sg/reportcustomsoffence</u>.

Annex A: Photo

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About Singapore Customs

Singapore Customs protects revenue and facilitates trade for Singapore's economic growth while continuously striving to be a world-leading customs authority. As a partner of the Ministry of Finance, we ensure compliance with customs and tax regulations, safeguard the nation's financial interests, and combat illicit trade activities. We also enable seamless trade by simplifying customs processes, building global trade connectivity, and maintaining Singapore's position as a trusted global trading hub. Guided by our values of integrity, commitment, courage, responsiveness and teamwork, we strive for excellence with a professional and innovative team. Together, we ensure revenue and enable trade, fostering a thriving Singapore economy.

To find out more, visit our website at www.customs.gov.sg



Annex A



Branded goods seized from Wey.



Branded goods seized from Song.