



**SINGAPORE
CUSTOMS**

MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate

17 August 2026

WOMAN FINED \$11,400 FOR FRAUDULENT EVASION OF GST ON JEWELLERY

Singapore, 17 August 2026 – A 32-year-old Singaporean woman was fined \$11,400 by the State Courts on 5 August 2026 for fraudulent evasion of Goods and Services Tax (GST) by attempting to bring jewellery purchased overseas into Singapore without declaration.

2 Nabilah Binte Jaafar Al-Kathiri (“Nabilah”) pleaded guilty to one charge of fraudulent evasion of GST and paid the fine. The Court ordered to forfeit 19 pieces of jewellery and other case exhibits, including bags and boxes used in the commission of the offence. The jewellery was valued at about \$10,512 and the GST evaded amounted to about \$946.

3 On 5 April 2026, Nabilah arrived in Singapore as a passenger in a Malaysian-registered vehicle at Woodlands Checkpoint. She falsely declared to Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) officers that she had nothing to declare, despite knowing that GST was payable on the jewellery she was bringing into Singapore. During checks on the vehicle, ICA officers discovered 23 pieces of jewellery belonging to Nabilah, comprising 21 pieces of gold jewellery and two pieces of titanium jewellery, packed in 22 parcels inside a polymer bag in the boot of the vehicle. The case was referred to Singapore

Customs for investigation. Nabilah was arrested by Singapore Customs at Woodlands Checkpoint, and all 23 pieces of jewellery were seized.

4 Investigations revealed that, at the material time, Nabilah resided in Malaysia and ran an online business selling gold and titanium jewellery to customers in Singapore. She advertised her goods on platforms such as Facebook and Telegram, and sourced the jewellery from various shops in Malaysia before bringing them into Singapore for delivery to her customers. Of the 23 pieces of jewellery found, 19 were intended for commercial sale for profit. The remaining pieces of jewellery were intended as personal gifts.

5 It is the responsibility of all arriving travellers to make accurate and complete declaration of the dutiable and taxable items in their possession for duty and GST payment. Evasion of duties and/or GST at checkpoints is a serious offence. Singapore Customs ensures the revenue is collected to maintain a level playing field for law-abiding local businesses in Singapore. Travellers can simply declare and pay their duties and/or GST through the [Customs@SG web application](#) or at the checkpoints.

6 Under the Customs Act 1960 and the GST Act 1993, fraudulent evasion of duty or GST is a serious offence. On conviction, offenders shall be fined up to 20 times the amount of duty and GST evaded. In addition to the fine, offenders shall be liable to imprisonment for up to 12 months.

7 Singapore Customs remains committed to upholding strict compliance with customs regulations and protecting revenue. Members of public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of duty or GST can report it to Customs at <https://go.gov.sg/reportcustomsoffence>.

Annex: Photographs of the seized goods.

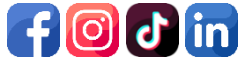
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About Singapore Customs

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.

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Annex



The 23 pieces of assorted gold and titanium jewellery.



The 22 parcels containing the assorted gold and titanium jewellery.