

MEDIA RELEASE

6 September 2012

CEA PROSECUTED UNREGISTERED SALESPERSON

On 5 September 2012, the Council for Estate Agencies (CEA) filed six charges against Tan Hock Khin (41 years old, Singaporean male) in Court for holding himself as a salesperson without being registered with the Council, and for impeding CEA inspectors from lawfully gathering evidence of the offences, amongst others. Details of the six charges are listed in Annex A.

2. Tan was also earlier charged by the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB) on 16 August 2012 with four counts of providing false information to the authorities - once to the Police and thrice to the CPIB.

About the Case

3. CEA's allegations against Tan are as follows. Tan was not registered as a salesperson with CEA, but he held himself out as one to the public in his online advertisement. He also carried out estate agency work without first getting a written agreement from a licensed estate agent for him to practise.

4. In addition, Tan impeded CEA inspectors from lawfully carrying out their investigation during a field operation. He disallowed the officers entry to the premises and hindered their efforts to gather evidence of the offences. Tan also provided false information during his interview with a CEA inspector. Despite receiving two written notices from CEA, Tan neglected to provide the required information and documents.

Advice for Consumers

5. Consumers are advised to engage salespersons who are registered with CEA. They should obtain the salesperson's registration number, and verify that the salesperson is listed on CEA's Public Register at www.cea.gov.sg before engaging his or her services. Consumers should inform CEA when they encounter any person not listed on the Public Register but carrying out estate agency work. They can do so by contacting CEA at 1800-6432555 or feedback@cea.gov.sg.

About Council for Estate Agencies

The Council for Estate Agencies (CEA) is a statutory board established under the Estate Agents Act to regulate and promote the development of a professional and trusted real estate agency industry. The key responsibilities of CEA are to license estate agents and register salespersons, promote the integrity and competence of estate agents and salespersons, and equip consumers with the necessary knowledge to make informed decisions in property transactions. For more information, please visit: www.cea.gov.sg.

CEA'S CHARGES AGAINST TAN HOCK KHIN

Tan Hock Khin was charged in Court under the Estate Agents Act (EAA) Cap. 95A for the following six charges:

- a) One charge for holding himself out as a salesperson without first being a registered salesperson of a licensed estate agent with the CEA, under Section 29(1)(a) of the EAA;
- b) One charge for holding himself out as a salesperson of a licensed estate agent without first getting an authorisation by written agreement from the licensed estate agent, under Section 41(2) of the EAA;
- c) One charge for impeding CEA inspectors from lawfully carrying out their function in the exercise of their power conferred under the Estate Agents Act, in disallowing entry to the premises for gathering evidence of offences, under Section 64(1)(c) of the EAA;
- d) One charge for furnishing false information during an interview with a CEA officer, under Section 64(1)(b) of the EAA; and
- e) Two charges for neglecting to furnish and produce information and documents to CEA as required by the written notices, under Section 66(1)(b) of the EAA.