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TOUGHER PENALTIES TO DETER TAXI FARE EVASION

1. To better protect the interests of taxi drivers from passengers who evade paying fares, the Public Transport Council (PTC) will increase the penalties for taxi fare evasion from 9 May 2016.
2. Passengers who do not pay their taxi fares will be liable for a higher composition fine of \$200 for the first offence and \$400 for the second offence, over and on top of the restitution payment of the unpaid taxi fare. Currently, the composition fines are \$100 and \$200 respectively. Repeat offenders who commit three or more offences and offenders who do not make a restitution payment of the unpaid taxi fare will be prosecuted in Court¹. Please refer to the **Annex** for more details.
3. PTC Chief Executive, Mr Alvin Chia, said, “There is a rising trend in taxi fare evasion. In 2015, there were a total of 240 fare evasion cases. This is three times the number in 2013, and a 90% increase from the 125 cases in 2014. Fare evasion affects the livelihood of taxi drivers and the stiffer penalties will help to better deter such offences. We will continue to work closely with taxi companies to curb taxi fare evasion.”.

For enquiries, please contact:

Maegan Ho, Assistant Manager (Communications)

Tel: 6354 9020

E-mail: ptc_office@ptc.gov.sg

Fax no: 6258 5463

¹ Under the Public Transport Council Act, a passenger found guilty of fare evasion can be fined up to \$1,000. Repeat offenders can be fined \$2,000, and also jailed up to six months.

Annex

	Before 9 May 2016	From 9 May 2016
First time offenders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First time offenders are given the concession to make a restitution payment for the unpaid taxi fare. Upon doing so, they will be issued a warning by LTA/PTC and the cases will be closed. Offenders who do not make a restitution payment for the unpaid taxi fare, will be liable to a composition fine of \$100. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First time offenders will be required to make a restitution payment for the unpaid taxi fare, and will be liable to a composition fine of \$200. Offenders who fail to make a restitution payment for the unpaid taxi fare, will be subject to prosecution in Court for the offence of “Failing to pay taxi fare” under Section 24D(2) of the PTC Act.
Second time offenders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second time offenders will be liable to a composition fine of \$200 and are not given the concession to settle the unpaid taxi fare. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second time offenders will be required to make a restitution payment for the unpaid taxi fare, and will be liable to a composition fine of \$400. Offenders who fail to make a restitution payment for the unpaid taxi fare, will be subject to prosecution in Court for the offence of “Failing to pay taxi fare” under Section 24D(2) of the PTC Act.
Repeat offenders (for the third and subsequent offences)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeat offenders will be prosecuted in Court for the offence of “Failing to pay taxi fare” under Section 24D(2) of the PTC Act and are not given the concession to settle the unpaid taxi fare. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeat offenders will be subject to prosecution in Court for the offence of “Failing to pay taxi fare” under Section 24D(2) of the PTC Act.

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