



Ref: BME/13/2008

391 New Bridge Road #04-14/15
Police Cantonment Complex Blk A
Singapore 088762

12 May 2008

Tel: 1800-236 9999
Fax: 6226 8438

Dear Community Partners,

CRIME PREVENTION ADVISORY: WATCH OUT DURING THE GREAT SINGAPORE SALE (GSS)

Police would like to remind the public to be vigilant with their belongings when doing your shopping during the Great Singapore Sale (GSS) from 23 May 2008 to 20 July 2008. As usual, the sale will attract large crowds to the shopping centres along the major shopping belts as well as in the heartlands. With massive layout of sales items, these will be good opportunities for shoppers to pick up bargains but potential thieves may take these opportunities to pick pockets and steal from the shops.

2 In the past 5 years during the GSS, there was an average of 12-15 cases of shop theft reported and 2-3 cases of theft from persons reported per day. Common methods adopted by the thieves are stealing exposed items such as handphones and wallets from bags or unzipping or slitting the bags of unsuspecting victims, who are sometimes distracted by the other accomplices or busy doing their shopping. Sometimes, the accomplices would also screen or block the view of other members of the public while the culprit removed the item from the victim's bags.

3 There are generally more theft cases committed during the GSS period and although the Police will step its ground enforcement, the Police would like to remind the public to remain alert at all times in safeguarding their valuables. While enjoying your shopping spree, you should also adopt the following crime prevention measures:

- a. When travelling in a crowded place, be wary of anyone bumping into you. Check your valuables if this happen.
- b. Avoid exposing cash, valuables, or jewellery in public areas. Do not attract the attention of would-be thieves.
- c. Ensure that your bag is properly secured. Place them in front or within your view while shopping or walking.
- d. Never leave your valuables unattended on trolleys or strollers while shopping. Valuables unattended pose as easy targets to would-be culprits.
- e. While having meals, never use valuables such as handphones and wallets to reserve seats. Arrange for a friend or colleague to look after your valuables while ordering food.

4 If you have any information in helping us to solve any of the cases or wish to report suspicious person(s) loitering around your neighbourhood, please contact Bukit Merah East Neighbourhood Police Centre at telephone number: **1800-236 9999** or dial the Police hotline at **1800-225 0000**.

Yours Sincerely



**DSP ONG ENG BAN
COMMANDING OFFICER
BUKIT MERAH EAST NPC
CENTRAL POLICE DIVISION**

CRIME PREVENTION – A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY