



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS 新加坡关税局 KASTAM SINGAPURA சிங்கப்பூர் கங்கத்துறை

MEDIA RELEASE

15 December 2022

More than 9,000 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes seized and four men arrested in Customs operation

Singapore Customs arrested three male Singaporeans and one male Malaysian, aged between 18 and 40, and seized 9,069 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in an operation conducted on 9 December 2022.

Case information

Customs officers raided a unit in an industrial building at Sunview Road. Three men attempted to flee the scene but were subsequently stopped by Customs officers. Officers uncovered 9,069 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes contained in boxes in the unit. The three men were arrested.

Investigations revealed that the men were allegedly engaged by unknown persons to receive and repack duty-unpaid cigarettes. They had allegedly received the duty-unpaid cigarettes from a Malaysia-registered lorry which had delivered the cigarettes to the industrial unit.

Another man, suspected to be the driver of the lorry, was subsequently arrested at Tuas Checkpoint on the same day.

All the duty-unpaid cigarettes and the lorry were seized in the operation. The total duty and Goods and Services tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$928,000 and \$71,890 respectively. Investigations are ongoing.

Buying, selling, conveying, delivering, storing, keeping, possessing or dealing with duty-unpaid goods are serious offences under the Customs Act and the GST Act. Offenders can be fined up to 40 times the amount of duty and GST evaded and/or jailed for up to six years. Vehicles used in the commission of such offences are also liable to be forfeited.

Members of public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of duty or GST can call the Singapore Customs hotline on 1800-2330000 or email customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg to report these illegal activities.

Singapore Customs

15 December 2022

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ANNEX



Boxes containing duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the industrial unit.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the boxes.



The three men arrested at Sunview Road and the 9,069 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes seized.