



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Immediate**

27 October 2023

### **MALE SINGAPOREAN ARRESTED AS CUSTOMS SEIZED 3,500 CARTONS OF DUTY-UNPAID CIGARETTES IN YISHUN**

Singapore, 27 October 2023 – Singapore Customs arrested one male Singaporean, 17, and seized 3,500 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in two operations on 20 October 2023 in Yishun. The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to \$425,390.

2 The first operation was conducted at Yishun Street 42, when the driver of a van was seen alighting and then waiting at the passenger side of the van. Another man was later seen approaching the van. Officers uncovered a total of 1,580 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes and cash amounting to \$5,857, which is suspected to be proceeds from the sales of duty-unpaid cigarettes. The driver was arrested and the second man is assisting in investigations. The duty-unpaid cigarettes, cash and the van were seized. The driver was also referred to the Traffic Police for driving without a license.

3 In a follow-up operation at Yishun Avenue 1, officers uncovered a total of 1,920 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in an unmanned van. The duty-unpaid cigarettes and the van were seized. Investigations are ongoing.

4 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 and proceeds of sales of duty-unpaid cigarettes are also liable to be forfeited.

5 Members of public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of duty or GST can email [customs\\_intelligence@customs.gov.sg](mailto:customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg) to report these illegal activities.

Annex A: Photos of the operations

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### **About Singapore Customs**

Singapore Customs, a lead agency under the Ministry of Finance, protects revenue and facilitates trade. We make trade easy, fair and secure. We ensure compliance with customs regulations and collect taxes and duties on dutiable and taxable goods. We regulate the export of strategic goods and implement Singapore's commitments to some international trade regulations such as the United Nations Security Council Sanctions.

We work closely with other government agencies, industry partners, and international organisations in our mission and operations. With the use of data analytics, digitalisation of processes and various technologies, we continuously improve the efficiency and effectiveness of customs processes.

By proactively balancing the intricate requirements of trade facilitation, security and regulatory compliance, Singapore Customs strengthens Singapore's position as a global trade hub trusted by businesses operating in Singapore and foreign trading partners.

To find out more, visit our website at [www.customs.gov.sg](http://www.customs.gov.sg)  
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**ANNEX A**



The duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the van at Yishun Street 42.



Seized cash suspected to be proceeds from the sales of duty-unpaid cigarettes.



The duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the van at Yishun Avenue 1.