



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Immediate**

21 June 2023

### **SINGAPORE CUSTOMS ARRESTS TWO MEN FOR EVADING DUTIES AND TAXES**

*2,165 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes seized over two operations on 16 June 2023.*

Singapore, 21 June 2023 – Singapore Customs conducted two operations on 16 June 2023 in Jalan Boon Lay and Senang Crescent. Two men – a Singaporean and a Chinese national - were arrested and 2,165 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized, with both the duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounting to about \$231,730.

2 During the Jalan Boon Lay operation, Singapore Customs officers in a carpark had sighted the 47-year-old Singaporean opening the side compartment of a van, while the 27-year-old Chinese national was standing beside it. The officers moved in to conduct checks and uncovered 700 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in the van. 15 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes and cash amounting to \$4,000 in the possession of the younger man were also uncovered. Both men were arrested. Investigations revealed that the older man was allegedly engaged to collect duty-unpaid cigarettes from an industrial unit at Senang Crescent and deliver them to the younger man, who in turn was allegedly engaged to deliver the duty-unpaid cigarettes.

3 Singapore Customs officers conducted a follow-up operation at the industrial unit at Senang Crescent, which led to the discovery of another 1,450 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes.

4 The duty-unpaid cigarettes and vehicle, as well as cash suspected to be linked to the duty-unpaid cigarette transactions, were seized. The total duty and GST evaded amounted to about \$212,600 and \$19,130 respectively. Court proceedings are ongoing for both men.

5 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.

6 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](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 promote trade competitiveness and ensure the security of the supply chain.

We work closely with other government agencies, industry partners, and international organisations as we safeguard Singapore's borders against potential risks and threats. With the use of data analytics and various advanced technologies, we continuously leverage digital initiatives to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of customs processes.

By proactively balancing these 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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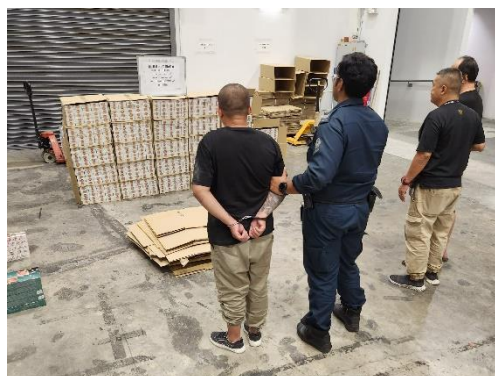
**ANNEX A**



The duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the van at the carpark at Jalan Boon Lay



The duty-unpaid cigarettes found in an industrial unit at Senang Crescent



The two men arrested and duty-unpaid cigarettes seized