

## **SINGAPORE CUSTOMS PRESS STATEMENT**

### **SINGAPORE CUSTOMS ARRESTED 2 MEN AND SEIZED 250 CARTONS OF CONTRABAND CIGARETTES**

On 22 May 2003, acting on intelligence received, Customs officers kept watch for a targeted mini tour bus at Block 12 at Marsiling Industrial Estate Road 5. At about 8.50 am, officers spotted the tour bus and a white van entering the Marsiling Rise Heavy Vehicle Park off Admiralty Road West. The officers also saw two male suspects (a Chinese and an Indian) alighting from the vehicles, opening the rear door of the mini bus and the side door of the van and unloading cartons from the mini bus onto the van.

When officers moved in and upon questioning, the suspects admitted that they had uncustomed cigarettes in a compartment in the mini tour bus. The Indian suspect surrendered two remote controls which were for use to open a specially-constructed hidden compartment below the floorboard of the mini bus. The compartment could be accessed using the remote controls to release the floorboards and on lifting the seats together with floorboards.

A total of 250 cartons of assorted brands of duty-unpaid cigarettes were found stashed away in the hidden compartment. The customs duty and GST of the cigarettes are \$12,750.00 and \$740.00 respectively.

The two men admitted ownership of the contraband cigarettes. They were arrested and the exhibits and vehicles seized.

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22 May 2003