



PRESS RELEASE

SINGAPORE CUSTOMS ARRESTED ONE MAN AND SEIZED 4250 CARTONS OF DUTY-UNPAID CIGARETTES

On 22 Jan 2005, Customs Special Investigations Branch officers arrested one male Chinese Singaporean, (aged 50) and seized a total of 4,250 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes from a van and a container. The customs duty and GST on the seized cigarettes are \$249,050 and \$16,617 respectively. The value of the cigarettes is estimated at \$403,750.

Acting on information gathered, a party of Customs officers conducted a check on a yard located at Eunus Road 4 on 22 Jan 2005. Officers saw a male Chinese loading boxes from a container onto a nearby van. Suspecting that the boxes contained duty-unpaid cigarettes, the officers moved in to verify the contents. Officers found cartons of Marlboro and Dunhill cigarettes in the boxes. Altogether, there were 850 cartons on the van and another 3,670 cartons in the container. On questioning, the man admitted that the cigarettes were duty-unpaid cigarettes. He was placed under arrest and the goods seized.

The man admitted that he was working for a Malaysia-based syndicate. His role was to collect the smuggled cigarettes from the container and deliver them to the local buyers. For each trip he would be paid \$200. Further investigation is currently ongoing by Singapore Customs.

The offender will be charged in Court on 24 Jan 2005. Upon conviction, he may be fined up to 20 times the tax evaded or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or to both.

Members of the public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of customs duty or GST may contact the Singapore Customs Intelligence Hotline on 1800-2330000 or email to customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg

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Released by: Mrs Chew Lai Leng
Head Corporate Communications
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