



**CONTAINER LOAD OF CONTRABAND CIGARETTES: SINGAPORE
CUSTOMS SEIZED 14,000 CARTONS OF CONTRABAND CIGARETTES
AND SMASHED A SMUGGLING SYNDICATE**

Singapore Customs smashed a cigarette smuggling syndicate and seized a total of 14,000 cartons (140,000 packets) of duty-unpaid cigarettes with an estimated market value of S\$1.26 million. The total duty and GST payable was S\$1.05 million.

2 On 17 May 2006 at about 2000 hours, based on intelligence from Singapore Customs, Immigration & Checkpoint Authority targeted a container suspected to contain contraband cigarettes at PSA Gate 1. A Customs party was immediately deployed to mount surveillance. Subsequently, the container was trailed from the port to a cargo yard in Kranji area. After a 24-hour surveillance, the Customs party moved in and seized 14,000 cartons (140,000 packets) of contraband cigarettes. 3 male Indian Singaporeans were arrested for involvement in the smuggling of the contraband cigarettes.

3 The case demonstrates Singapore Customs' undying resolve in stamping out syndicated smuggling activities. The department will continue to curb inland distribution and peddling of contraband cigarettes.

4 Singapore Customs wishes to take this opportunity to remind the public that storage, possession, conveying or dealing with any duty-unpaid cigarettes are offences under the Customs Act. Members of the public with information on any illegal activities involving duty-unpaid cigarettes can contact the Singapore Customs Intelligence Hotline on 1800-233 0000 or email to customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg.

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