



**SINGAPORE CUSTOMS** 新加坡关税局 **KASTAM SINGAPURA** சிங்கப்பூர் கங்கத்துறை

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

28 November 2018

### **Singapore Customs arrests 12 men and seizes over 11,900 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes from industrial premises in Tuas**

Singapore Customs arrested 12 men and seized over 11,900 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in three separate operations conducted in industrial premises in Tuas in November 2018.

On 24 November 2018, Singapore Customs officers raided a yard in Tuas Avenue 14 and saw four men retrieving duty-unpaid cigarettes that were hidden in eight concrete slabs and loading them onto a lorry. The four men – an Indonesian, a Malaysian, and two Singaporeans – were arrested.

A total of 4,148 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes and a lorry were seized in this operation. Court proceedings against the four men are ongoing.

On 7 November 2018, Singapore Customs officers conducted an operation in an industrial unit in Tuas South Street 1. In the unit, the officers uncovered duty-unpaid cigarettes hidden in six excavator arms. Two Malaysian men, who had assisted in moving the excavator arms containing duty-unpaid cigarettes into the unit, were arrested. Three other Malaysian men were arrested in a follow-up operation.

The operation resulted in the seizure of a total of 5,431 cartons and 29 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes and a van. Court proceedings against four of the men are ongoing, while investigations are ongoing for the fifth man.

In another operation on 2 November 2018, Singapore Customs officers arrested three Singaporean men in an industrial unit in Tuas South Avenue 3. The three men were retrieving the duty-unpaid cigarettes, which were hidden in concrete slabs, when Singapore Customs officers raided the unit.

A total of 2,400 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized in the operation. Court proceedings against the three men are ongoing.

A total of 11,979 cartons and 29 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized in the three operations. The duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$1,074,390 and \$78,520 respectively.

“We advise owners and managing agents of industrial premises to exercise due diligence to prevent their premises from being used by syndicates for duty-unpaid cigarette activities,” said Assistant Director-General (Intelligence & Investigation) Yeo Sew Meng [新加坡关税局助理局长(情报与调查)杨秀明]. “They should strengthen access controls at their premises and also look out for red flags such as persons seeking to rent the premises on a short-term basis, paying cash, and not being able to provide a credible business purpose for the rental,” said Mr Yeo.

Buying, selling, conveying, delivering, storing, keeping, having in possession 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 are also liable to be forfeited.

Members of public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of Customs duty or GST can call the Singapore Customs hotline on 1800-2330000, email [customs\\_intelligence@customs.gov.sg](mailto:customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg) or use Customs@SG mobile app (which can be downloaded from the Apple Store or Google Play) to report these illegal activities.

**###**

## ANNEX



Singapore Customs officers raided a yard in Tuas Avenue 14 on 24 November 2018 and arrested four men who were retrieving duty-unpaid cigarettes that were hidden in concrete slabs and loading them onto a lorry.





On 7 November 2018, Singapore Customs officers conducted an operation in an industrial unit in Tuas South Street 1. Five Malaysian men were arrested. A total of 5,431 cartons and 29 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes and a van were seized.





In another operation on 2 November 2018 evening, Singapore Customs officers arrested three Singaporean men in an industrial unit in Tuas South Avenue 3. The three men were retrieving the duty-unpaid cigarettes, which were hidden in concrete slabs.

**###**