



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

MEDIA RELEASE

23 April 2019

9,188 bottles of duty-unpaid liquor seized and four men arrested in operation

Singapore Customs seized 9,188 bottles of duty-unpaid liquor and arrested four men on 18 April 2019 for their involvement in duty-unpaid liquor activities.

That afternoon, Singapore Customs officers conducted an operation in a unit of an industrial building in Woodlands Close. Suspecting that a consignment of goods in the unit contained duty-unpaid liquor, the officers moved into the unit for a check.

Four men, all Chinese nationals, who were unpacking more than 630 boxes containing bottles of duty-unpaid liquor, were arrested. Investigations revealed that the duty-unpaid liquor were smuggled into Singapore from China. The boxes were labelled as soy sauce, in an attempt to conceal the duty-unpaid liquor.

Court proceedings against one of the men are ongoing, while investigations are ongoing for the other three men.

A total of 9,188 bottles of duty-unpaid liquor were seized in this operation. The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$186,480 and \$17,830 respectively.

“Singapore Customs will continue to clamp down on the smuggling and distribution of duty-unpaid liquor,” 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]. “We will spare no effort in going after sellers as well as buyers of duty-unpaid liquor.”

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 or use Customs@SG mobile app (which can be downloaded from the Apple Store or Google Play) to report these illegal activities.

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ANNEX



Singapore Customs officers conducted an operation in a unit of an industrial building in Woodlands Close on 18 April 2019.



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