



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS 新加坡关税局 KASTAM SINGAPURA சிங்கப்பூர் கங்கத்துறை

MEDIA RELEASE

27 October 2020

Singapore Customs arrests five men and seizes more than 1,900 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes

Singapore Customs arrested five Chinese nationals, aged between 28 and 46, and seized more than 1,940 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes during two related operations in the vicinities of Choa Chu Kang Avenue 5 and Admiralty Drive on 24 October 2020.

In the evening of 24 October 2020, Singapore Customs officers observed two men transferring boxes from a Singapore-registered van to a Singapore-registered truck in a multi-storey carpark at Choa Chu Kang Avenue 5. The two men left the carpark in the van shortly. Officers then saw another man appeared from the back of the truck and moved in to conduct a check. Officers found 442 cartons and three packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes in the truck and arrested the man.

Subsequently, Singapore Customs officers sighted the same two men and the van from Choa Chu Kang Avenue 5 arriving at a multi-storey carpark at Admiralty Drive. The van parked beside another truck, which had arrived earlier with two other men. As the four men were about to transfer boxes from the van to the truck, officers moved in to conduct a check. A total of 1,493 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were found in the van and the four men were arrested.

Follow-up search of the residences of the men resulted in the seizure of an additional five cartons and nine packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes.

The operations resulted in the seizure of a total of 1,940 cartons and 12 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes. The duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to

about \$165,770 and \$13,420 respectively. Two vehicles and proceeds of crime amounting to \$15,000 were seized. Court proceedings against four men are ongoing while investigations are ongoing for the remaining man.

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 and proceeds of sales of duty-unpaid cigarettes 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 to report these illegal activities.

Singapore Customs
27 October 2020

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ANNEX



Duty-unpaid cigarettes in boxes with black packaging found in a truck in a multi-storey carpark at Choa Chu Kang Avenue 5.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in a van in a multi-storey carpark at Admiralty Drive.



1,940 cartons and 12 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes seized during the operations.