



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS 新加坡关税局 KASTAM SINGAPURA சிங்கப்பூர் கங்கத்துறை

MEDIA RELEASE

23 August 2021

Enforcement operations net three suspects with haul of more than 4,700 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes

Singapore Customs arrested three men, aged between 44 and 54, and seized more than 4,700 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes during related operations conducted in the vicinities of Bedok North Street 5 and Woodlands Avenue 6 on 18 August 2021.

Case information

On the evening of 18 August 2021, Singapore Customs mounted an operation near Bedok North Street 5. Officers moved in after observing boxes, suspected to contain duty-unpaid cigarettes, being transferred from a Singapore-registered van to a Singapore-registered truck. The truck driver, a 44-year-old Chinese national, was arrested after 1,700 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were found in the two vehicles.

In a related operation on the same evening at Woodlands Avenue 6, officers uncovered 2,996 cartons and 40 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes in another Singapore-registered van. The driver and the passenger of the van, a 47-year-old Singaporean man and a 54-year-old Malaysian respectively, were arrested.

A subsequent search at the Singaporean man's residence at Yishun Street 22 led to the seizure of an additional 64 cartons and 37 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes.

The two operations resulted in the seizure of three vehicles and a total of 4,760 cartons and 77 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes. The duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$407,160 and \$32,660 respectively. Cash amounting to

\$12,750, which was suspected to be criminal proceeds from the sale of duty-unpaid cigarettes, was also seized from one of the suspects. Investigations are ongoing.

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
23 August 2021

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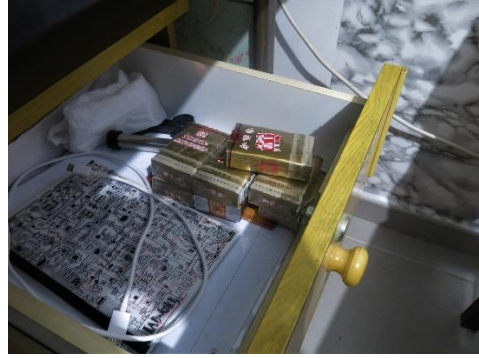
ANNEX



1,700 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were found in the van and truck at Bedok North Street 5.



2,996 cartons and 40 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes were found in another van at Woodlands Avenue 6.



64 cartons and 37 packets were found in the Singaporean man's residence at Yishun Street 22.