



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Immediate**

11 August 2023

### **TWO VANS SEIZED AND ONE MAN ARRESTED FOR EVADING MORE THAN \$330,000 IN DUTIES AND TAXES**

*A Singaporean man, 29, was caught with 1,946 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes at Marsiling Road.*

Singapore, 11 August 2023 – In its ongoing efforts to detect and deter tax evasion, Singapore Customs conducted an operation in Marsiling Road on 7 August 2023. A 29-year-old man was arrested, with 1,946 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes seized. The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$305,756 and \$25,992 respectively.

2 Singapore Customs officers mounted an operation at a carpark in Marsiling Road, where they sighted a man opening the door of a van. Officers conducted checks and found 96 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes packed in brown carton boxes. Subsequently, officers uncovered another 1,850 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes packed in brown carton boxes in an adjacent van. The man was arrested, and the duty-unpaid cigarettes and the two vehicles were seized.

3 Investigations revealed that the man had allegedly purchased duty-unpaid cigarettes from an unknown person via a social messaging platform for resale. Court proceedings are ongoing.

4 Buying, selling, conveying, delivering, storing, keeping, possessing 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.

5 Members of public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of duty or GST can call the Singapore Customs hotline on 1800-2330000 or email [customs\\_intelligence@customs.gov.sg](mailto:customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg) to report these illegal activities.

Annex A: Photos of the operations

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#### **About Singapore Customs**

Singapore Customs, a lead agency under the Ministry of Finance, protects revenue and facilitates trade. We make trade easy, fair and secure. We ensure compliance with customs regulations and collect taxes and duties on dutiable and taxable goods. We promote trade competitiveness and ensure the security of the supply chain.

We work closely with other government agencies, industry partners, and international organisations as we safeguard Singapore's borders against potential risks and threats. With the use of data analytics and various advanced technologies, we continuously leverage digital initiatives to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of customs processes.

By proactively balancing these intricate requirements of trade facilitation, security and regulatory compliance, Singapore Customs strengthens Singapore's position as a global trade hub trusted by businesses operating in Singapore and foreign trading partners.

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**ANNEX A**



The two vans parked side by side



The duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the vans



The man arrested and the duty-unpaid cigarettes seized