



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Immediate**

22 December 2023

### **MALE SINGAPOREAN ARRESTED AND 2,900 CARTONS OF DUTY-UNPAID CIGARETTES SEIZED IN YISHUN OPERATION**

Singapore, 22 December 2023 – In our ongoing efforts to curb illegal cigarette activities, Singapore Customs conducted an operation at a carpark in Yishun Avenue 5 on 20 December 2023.

2 During the operation, our officers saw a man opening the door of a van suspected to contain duty-unpaid cigarettes. They conducted checks and uncovered a total of 2,900 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes, which were packed inside brown boxes kept within the van’s cargo compartment.

3 Investigations revealed that the man was allegedly engaged by an unknown person to collect and deliver boxes containing duty-unpaid cigarettes. The 31-year-old male Singaporean was arrested, and the duty-unpaid cigarettes seized during the operations.

4 The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$342,134. Court proceedings are ongoing.

5 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.

6 Members of the public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of duty or GST can provide information to Customs at <https://go.gov.sg/reportcustomsoffence>.

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 regulate the export of strategic goods and implement Singapore's commitments to some international trade regulations such as the United Nations Security Council Sanctions.

We work closely with other government agencies, industry partners, and international organisations in our mission and operations. With the use of data analytics, digitalisation of processes and various technologies, we continuously improve the efficiency and effectiveness of customs processes.

By proactively balancing the 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.

To find out more, visit our website at [www.customs.gov.sg](http://www.customs.gov.sg)  
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**ANNEX A**



The duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the van at Yishun Avenue 5



The arrested man and all the duty-unpaid cigarettes seized