



MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate

4 January 2024

CHINESE NATIONAL ARRESTED FOR EVADING OVER \$170,000 IN DUTIES AND TAXES

Singapore, 4 January 2024 – In our ongoing efforts to curb illegal cigarette activities, Singapore Customs conducted an operation at a carpark in Geylang East Avenue 1 on 28 December 2023.

2 During the operation, our officers conducted checks and uncovered a total of 1,356 cartons and 3,190 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes in a truck's cargo compartment. The truck driver, a 32-year-old male Chinese national, was arrested, and the duty-unpaid cigarettes and truck were seized during the operation.

3 Investigations revealed that the man was allegedly engaged by an unknown person via a social messaging platform to collect and deliver duty-unpaid cigarettes. He was employed as a delivery driver by a food company and had used his company's truck to deliver the duty-unpaid cigarettes.

4 The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to \$179,292. 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. Vehicles used in committing such offences are also liable to be forfeited.

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
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ANNEX A



The duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the truck at Geylang East Avenue 1



The arrested man and all the duty-unpaid cigarettes seized