

## PRESS RELEASE

### **SINGAPORE CUSTOMS SEIZED 260 CARTONS OF DUTY UNPAID CIGARETTES AND OVER 27,000 PIECES OF UNCENSORED & OBSCENE VCDs, CD-ROMs, DVDs**

On 17 May 2004 at 9.05 pm, Customs Special Investigations Branch officers arrested one male Indian Malaysian (aged 31, truck driver), one male Myanmar (aged 20, truck attendant) and one male Chinese Singaporean (aged 30, unemployed) and seized 260 cartons assorted brands of duty-unpaid cigarettes and 27,185 pieces of uncensored VCDs, CD-ROMs, DVDs and audio CDs from a Malaysian registered truck and a Singapore registered car at Sungei Kadut Street 5. The Myanmar man is suspected to be an illegal immigrant.

The Customs duty and GST of the cigarettes were \$15,236.00 and \$1,016.60 respectively. The market value of the cigarettes amounted to \$24,700.00. The GST on the VCDs, DVDs and audio CDs was \$1,082.33.

Acting on intelligence gathered, a party of Customs officers kept watch at the vicinity of Sungei Kadut Street 5 for a Malaysian registered container truck suspected to be conveying contraband. At about 8.45 pm, the suspect truck arrived and followed by a Singapore registered car a short while later. The car was parked alongside the truck. The men were seen transferring boxes from the container into the car boot. At this juncture, officers moved in and searched both the vehicles. A total of 260 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes and 27,185 pieces of uncensored optical discs were found. The goods were seized and the truck driver and attendant together with the driver of the Singapore registered car were arrested.

The offenders will be charged in Court on 19 May 2004. Upon conviction, they may be fined up to 20 times the tax evaded or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or to both.

Members of the public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of customs duty or GST may contact the Singapore Customs Intelligence Hotline on 1800-2330000 or email to [customs\\_intelligence@customs.gov.sg](mailto:customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg)

~ END ~