



PRESS RELEASE

SINGAPORE CUSTOMS ARRESTED TWO MEN AND SEIZED 29,920 PACKETS DUTY-UNPAID CIGARETTES FROM LORRY CARRYING VEGETABLES

On 20 June 2006, Singapore Customs officers arrested two men, (a Singaporean and a Malaysian, aged 38 and 30 respectively). A total of 2,992 cartons (29,920 packets) of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized. The estimated market value of the duty-unpaid cigarettes is S\$269,280 and the total duty and GST payable is S\$224,268.

2 On 20 June 2006 at about 3.00 am, Singapore Customs officers kept surveillance at a secluded spot along Old Woodlands Road for a Malaysian-registered lorry suspected to be conveying duty-unpaid cigarettes. At about 5.40 am, the targeted lorry arrived and stopped along Old Woodlands Road. Twenty minutes later, a Singapore-registered car arrived and the lorry started moving off behind the car. The officers trailed the two vehicles and intercepted them along Boon Lay Way. Officers found a total of 2,992 cartons (29,920 packets) of duty-unpaid cigarettes hidden underneath baskets of vegetables.

3 The drivers were arrested and will be charged in court on 21 June 2006 for commission of Customs offences.

4 Singapore Customs would like to take this opportunity to remind the public that storing, possession, conveying or dealing with any quantity of duty-unpaid cigarettes are serious offences under the Customs Act. Singapore Customs take a very serious view and will not hesitate to prosecute offenders in court where they will be liable to a fine and/or imprisonment if convicted.

5 Members of the public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of customs duty or GST may contact Singapore Customs Intelligence hotline at 1800-2330000 or email to customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg.