

**SINGAPORE CUSTOMS – SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE
JOINT PRESS STATEMENT**

Singapore Customs and the Singapore Police Force conducted a joint operation to flush out illegal cigarette peddling activities in the Yew Tee area on 16 May 2007. The 2-hour operation from 4 pm to 6 pm resulted in the arrest of 4 immigration offenders who were found to be in possession of a total of 4 cartons and 27 loose packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes. The officers also combed the surrounding forested area and seized another 49 cartons and 60 loose packets of assorted brands of duty-unpaid cigarettes. The duty and GST payable on the contraband cigarettes totaled \$4,650.

Singapore Customs warns that buying, selling, conveying, delivering, storing, keeping, having in possession or dealing with contraband cigarettes are serious offences under the Customs and GST Acts. Stiff penalties are imposed for such offences. On conviction by the court, offenders can be jailed as well as fined. The vehicles used in the commission of the offence are also liable to forfeiture. The public are also advised against buying duty-unpaid cigarettes. For a packet of duty-unpaid cigarettes, buyers stand to face a minimum fine of \$200 or prosecution in court. Members of the public with information on smuggling activities may contact the Singapore Customs Intelligence Hotline on 1800-2330000 or email to customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg

**ISSUED BY: SINGAPORE CUSTOMS
 SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE**

DATE: 17 MAY 2007