

SINGAPORE CUSTOMS AND SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

On 5 February 2008, officers from Singapore Customs, assisted by officers from the Singapore Police Force, conducted a joint operation to flush out illegal cigarette peddlers at a coffee shop in Geylang, Lorong 14. The operation from 6.30 pm to 7.45pm resulted in the arrest of 4 illegal peddlers (3 Singaporeans and 1 foreign worker) and the seizures of 350 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes. The total amount of duty and GST payable on the contraband cigarettes amounted to \$2,790. All four offenders will be charged in court on 6 February 2008.

Singapore Customs will continue to work hand in hand with enforcement agencies such as the Singapore Police Force to fight cigarette smuggling. Members of the public are warned against buying, selling, conveying, delivering, storing, keeping, having in possession or dealing with contraband cigarettes, which 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 up to \$500 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: **6 FEBRUARY 2008**