



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS 新加坡关税局 **KASTAM SINGAPURA** சிங்கப்பூர் சுங்கத்துறை

MEDIA RELEASE

6 September 2016

Repeat offender sentenced to 38 months' jail and \$6.6 million fine for dealing with duty-unpaid cigarettes

A Singaporean man Abdul Rashid Bin Abdullah pleaded guilty on 1 September 2016 to two charges of dealing with duty-unpaid cigarettes. He was sentenced by the State Courts to 38 months' imprisonment and a fine of \$6.6 million. If he is unable to pay the fine, he will have to serve an additional 22 months of default sentence.

On 31 August 2016, Singapore Customs received information that a terraced house in Upper Paya Lebar Road was used to store duty-unpaid cigarettes. When Singapore Customs officers entered the house to conduct a check, they found 2,400 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes kept in wooden frames and brown boxes. Abdul Rashid, aged 61, was arrested and the duty-unpaid cigarettes seized. The duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded in this case amounted to about \$204,990.

Investigations revealed that Abdul Rashid had rented the house to store the duty-unpaid cigarettes, which were concealed in wooden frames. He subsequently retrieved the duty-unpaid cigarettes from the wooden frames, using tools such as a hammer, penknife and screwdrivers.

Abdul Rashid was previously convicted on 3 October 2008 for dealing with 1,239 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes and was then sentenced to 36 months' imprisonment.

Buying, selling, conveying, delivering, storing, keeping, having in possession or dealing with duty-unpaid goods are serious offences under the Customs Act and the Goods and Services Tax Act. Offenders will be severely dealt with. They can be fined up to 40 times the amount of duty and GST evaded, and/or jailed for up to six years.

The minimum court fine for first-time and repeat offenders of tobacco-related offences is \$2,000 and \$4,000 respectively. Repeat offenders who are caught with more than two kilogrammes of tobacco products will also face mandatory jail sentences.

Members of the public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of Customs duty or GST can call the Singapore Customs hotline on 1800-2330000, email customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg or use Customs@SG mobile app (which can be downloaded from the Apple Store or Google Play) to report these illegal activities.

###

ANNEX



The terraced house in Upper Paya Lebar Road was used to store duty-unpaid cigarettes.



Brown boxes containing duty-unpaid cigarettes were found outside the main door of the terraced house.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes were concealed in wooden frames.



Abdul Rashid retrieved the duty-unpaid cigarettes from the wooden frames.



A total of 2,400 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized from the terraced house.

###