



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

MEDIA RELEASE

25 January 2017

Singapore Customs seized 25,500 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in two days; largest haul since April 2015

Singapore Customs seized 25,500 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes from two related operations conducted on 17 and 23 January 2017.

This is the largest seizure of duty-unpaid cigarettes since April 2015.

On 17 January 2017, Singapore Customs conducted an operation at a logistics company in Jurong Port Road. Singapore Customs officers seized 4,900 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes hidden in brown boxes on the premises. A Singaporean man, 59, and woman, 54, and a Malaysian man, 37, were arrested.

Further investigations into this case led to another operation on 23 January 2017. In this operation, Singapore Customs officers seized 20,600 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes stored in two containers parked in a vehicle yard in Pioneer Sector 3.

The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) involved in these two operations amounted to about \$2,305,500 and \$219,330 respectively.

Investigations are ongoing.

Buying, selling, conveying, delivering, storing, keeping, having in possession or dealing with duty-unpaid goods are serious offences under the Customs Act and the GST 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.

Repeat offenders who are caught with more than two kilogrammes of tobacco products will also face mandatory imprisonment. Vehicles used in the commission of such offences are also liable to be forfeited.

###

ANNEX



Singapore Customs officers seized 4,900 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes from the premises of a logistics company in Jurong Port Road on 17 January 2017.





Another 20,600 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes stored in two containers parked in a vehicle yard in Pioneer Sector 3 were seized on 23 January 2017.

###