



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

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

21 May 2020

### **Singapore Customs arrests a Singaporean man and seizes over 379 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes**

Singapore Customs arrested a 54-year-old Singaporean man and seized over 379 cartons duty-unpaid cigarettes in an operation conducted in the vicinity of Yishun Street 51 on 13 May 2020.

During the operation, Singapore Customs officers observed the man pushing a trolley loaded with boxes wrapped in black trash bags into a HDB unit located along Yishun Street 51. The officers subsequently searched the unit and uncovered 379 cartons and one packet of duty-unpaid cigarettes and arrested the man.

The duty-unpaid cigarettes and cash amounting to SGD\$620, suspected to be proceeds of sales of duty-unpaid cigarettes, were seized. The duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$51,800 and \$3,910 respectively.

Investigations revealed that the man had bought the duty-unpaid cigarettes from an unknown man and had intended to sell them for a profit. The man was charged in court on 15 May 2020 and court proceedings 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 can be fined up to 40 times the amount of duty and GST evaded and/or jailed for up to six years. Vehicles used in the commission of such offences are also liable to be forfeited.

Members of public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of Customs duty or GST can call the Singapore Customs hotline on 1800-233-0000, email [customs\\_intelligence@customs.gov.sg](mailto: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.

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Duty-unpaid cigarettes stored in HDB unit



Duty-unpaid cigarettes in black trash bags placed on a trolley



Duty-unpaid cigarettes seized from the HDB unit