



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS 新加坡关税局 KASTAM SINGAPURA சிங்கப்பூர் கங்கத்துறை

MEDIA RELEASE

11 November 2020

Singapore Customs arrests a man and seizes more than 515 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes

Singapore Customs arrested a 47-year-old Singaporean man and seized over 515 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes during an operation in the vicinity of Compassvale Road on 6 November 2020.

During the operation, Singapore Customs officers conducted checks on a Singapore-registered van and a taxi in a multi-storey carpark, where they found 159 cartons and two packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes in the van and 356 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in the taxi. Singapore Customs officers arrested the male driver of the van who is also the taxi hirer. A follow-up search was conducted at his place of residence and Singapore Customs officers uncovered another five packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes.

Investigations revealed that the man had rented the van to receive and store the duty-unpaid cigarettes and used the taxi to deliver duty-unpaid cigarettes to various places in Singapore.

“We urge taxi operators as well as vehicle rental companies to monitor their hirers to prevent their vehicles from being used for illicit activities, and to alert the authorities on any suspected duty-unpaid cigarette delivery activities,” said Assistant Director-General (Intelligence & Investigation) Yeo Sew Meng [新加坡关税局助理局长(情报与调查)杨秀明].

A total of 515 cartons and seven packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized, where the duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$44,040 and \$3,560 respectively. The van, taxi and criminal proceeds amounting to \$460 were seized. Court proceedings against the man 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 and proceeds of sales of duty-unpaid cigarettes 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 1800-2330000, email customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg to report these illegal activities.

Singapore Customs
11 November 2020

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ANNEX



Singapore Customs officers uncovered duty-unpaid cigarettes in a taxi and van parked in a multi-storey carpark at Compassvale Road.



515 cartons and seven packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized.

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