



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

MEDIA RELEASE

25 November 2020

Singapore Customs arrests four men and seizes more than 1,200 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes

Singapore Customs arrested four Singaporean men, aged between 44 and 56, and seized 1,200 cartons and 11 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes during an operation in the vicinity of Hendon Road and Netheravon Road on 20 November 2020 and a follow-up operation on 21 November 2020.

Singapore Customs officers conducted checks on two Singapore-registered cars parked along Hendon Road and Netheravon Road, and found 1,200 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes loaded in the passenger seats and boot of the two cars. The two drivers, who are brothers, were arrested. A third man was also arrested along Netheravon Road. A follow-up search at the third man's place of residence led to the seizure of 11 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes.

Investigations revealed that one of the drivers, a director of a freight forwarding company based in the Changi Airfreight Centre (CAC), had imported the duty-unpaid cigarettes which were falsely declared as stationeries. Earlier that day, he had collected boxes containing the duty-unpaid cigarettes from the airfreight terminal and stored them in his company premises located within the CAC. Subsequently, he and his elder brother loaded the duty-unpaid cigarettes into their respective cars. The pair then smuggled the duty-unpaid cigarettes out of the CAC that evening using their cars.

Further investigations revealed that a fourth man was also involved in the delivery of the duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the two cars. The fourth man was arrested on 21 November 2020.

The duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded on the 1,200 cartons and 11 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes amounted to about \$151,290 and \$11,530 respectively. The two cars were also seized.

The brothers and the fourth man had been charged in court, and the court granted applications for them to be remanded for further investigations. Investigations are also ongoing for the other man.

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 1800-2330000, email customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg to report these illegal activities.

Singapore Customs
25 November 2020

###

ANNEX

###



Singapore Customs officers found duty-unpaid cigarettes in the two cars during the operation in the vicinity of Hendon Road and Netheravon Road on 20 November 2020.



The two cars and a total of 1,200 cartons and 11 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized.