



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

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

26 April 2018

### **Singapore Customs arrests eight men and seizes over 5,000 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes**

Eight men were arrested in an operation conducted by Singapore Customs on 24 April 2018.

The group of five Singaporeans and three Malaysians, aged between 21 to 59, were arrested for their suspected involvement in dealing in over 5,000 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes.

On 24 April 2018, Singapore Customs officers kept watch on a motor workshop in an industrial building in Kaki Bukit Avenue 4, which was suspected to be used as a storage and distribution point for duty-unpaid cigarettes. The officers subsequently searched the motor workshop where they uncovered a total of 5,120 cartons and four packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes in the motor workshop and in a Singapore-registered truck that had been driven earlier into the motor workshop.

Six men were arrested in the motor workshop and another two men were later arrested at the Woodlands Checkpoint while they were attempting to leave Singapore.

The 5,120 cartons and four packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized. The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$439,280 and \$32,180 respectively. The truck found in the motor workshop, and another two Malaysia-registered cars, suspected to be used in the delivery of the duty-unpaid cigarettes to different parts of Singapore, were also seized.

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.

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## ANNEX



Singapore Customs officers searched a motor workshop in an industrial building in Kaki Bukit Avenue 4, which was suspected to be used as a storage and distribution point for duty-unpaid cigarettes.



Singapore Customs officers uncovered a total of 5,120 cartons and four packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes in the motor workshop and in a Singapore-registered truck that had been driven earlier into the motor workshop.



The truck that was in the motor workshop, and another two Malaysia-registered cars, suspected to be used in the delivery of the duty-unpaid cigarettes to different parts of Singapore, were seized.

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