



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

MEDIA RELEASE

11 September 2018

Singapore Customs arrests seven men and seizes 11,400 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes from two operations

Singapore Customs arrested seven Singaporean men and seized a total of 11,400 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes from operations conducted on 4 and 6 September 2018.

On 6 September 2018 noon, Singapore Customs officers conducted an operation in an industrial estate in Depot Lane. Three Singaporean men, aged between 25 and 55, who had transferred duty-unpaid cigarettes from a truck to a van, were arrested. A fourth Singaporean man, aged 23, who drove another van loaded with duty-unpaid cigarettes from Depot Lane to an open carpark in Seah Im Road before fleeing the scene, was subsequently arrested at the Woodlands Checkpoint on the same day.

The operation resulted in a seizure of 7,500 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes and three Singapore-registered vehicles – a truck and two vans – that were used to transport the duty-unpaid cigarettes. Court proceedings against three of the men are ongoing, while the 55-year-old man is assisting Singapore Customs with investigation.

In a separate operation in the same week, Singapore Customs officers raided a warehouse in a commercial building in Tuas View Place on 4 September 2018 evening, after seeing three Singaporean men, aged between 19 and 42, moving green gunny sacks, suspected to contain duty-unpaid cigarettes, into the warehouse.

A total of 3,900 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes and a Singapore-registered truck, from which the duty-unpaid cigarettes were being unloaded earlier, were seized. Court proceedings against the three men are ongoing.

The duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded in both operations amounted to about \$988,930 and \$72,410 respectively.

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





The operation on 6 September 2018 resulted in a seizure of 7,500 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes and three Singapore-registered vehicles – a truck and two vans – that were used to transport the duty-unpaid cigarettes.





In the same week on 4 September 2018 evening, Singapore Customs conducted another operation in Tuas View Place. A total of 3,900 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes and a Singapore-registered truck were seized.

###