



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS 新加坡关税局 KASTAM SINGAPURA சிங்கப்பூர் கங்கத்துறை

MEDIA RELEASE

2 February 2022

More than 7,100 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes seized in operation; five men and a woman arrested

Singapore Customs arrested five men and a woman, aged between 30 and 52, and seized more than 7,100 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in an operation on 28 January 2022.

Case information

On the evening of 28 January 2022, Singapore Customs officers mounted an operation in the vicinity of Jurong West Street 62. Officers observed two men transferring brown boxes from a Singapore-registered boxed truck to a Singapore-registered van which left the scene shortly after, driven by one of the men.

Later, a Singapore-registered open top lorry driven by another man arrived and parked beside the boxed truck. Officers observed brown boxes being transferred from the boxed truck to the open top lorry. Suspecting that the brown boxes contained duty-unpaid cigarettes, officers moved in to conduct checks and found 4,336 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in both vehicles. Besides the two men who were arrested on the spot, the man who was earlier sighted transferring the brown boxes from the boxed truck to the van was also arrested at the vicinity.

In a related operation conducted in the vicinity of Joo Chiat Lane, officers kept watch of the van which had left Jurong West Street 62 earlier. They moved in when a man was seen approaching the van with the male driver and a woman seated inside. The

man attempted to flee the scene but was eventually caught and arrested. The pair in the van were also arrested for their alleged involvement in dealing with duty-unpaid cigarettes. A total of 2,850 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were found in the van.

A total of 7,186 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes, the three vehicles used and cash amounting to \$14,898.65 were seized in the operation.

The total duty and Goods and Services tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$613,680 and \$48,840 respectively. One of the men and the woman were charged in court on 29 January 2022, and the court granted the application for them to be remanded for a week for further investigations. For the remaining men, investigations are ongoing.

Buying, selling, conveying, delivering, storing, keeping, possessing 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 or email customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg to report these illegal activities.

Singapore Customs

2 February 2022

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ANNEX



Duty-unpaid cigarettes were found in the van, boxed truck and open top lorry.



A total of 7,186 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized in the operation.