



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Immediate**

25 September 2024

### **TWO MEN ARRESTED FOR EVADING OVER \$330,000 IN DUTIES AND TAXES**

Singapore, 25 September 2024 – Singapore Customs (Customs) arrested two men and seized duty-unpaid cigarettes and two vans in an operation conducted at Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park on 18 September 2024.

2 During the operation, Customs officers checked two vans at the Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park carpark. They uncovered 2,958 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in one van, while another 150 cartons were found in the second van parked beside it. A 44-year-old Singaporean man and a 21-year-old Malaysian man were arrested.

3 Investigations revealed that both men were allegedly engaged by an unknown person to collect and deliver the duty-unpaid cigarettes. The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$336,820. The cigarettes and both the vans were seized. Court proceedings are ongoing.

4 Under the Customs Act and the GST Act, buying, selling, conveying, delivering, storing, keeping, possessing or dealing with duty-unpaid goods are serious offences. 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 committing such offences are also subject to forfeiture.

5 Members of the public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of duty or GST can report it to Customs at <https://go.gov.sg/reportcustomsoffence>.

Annex A: Photos of the operation

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### **About Singapore Customs**

Singapore Customs, a lead agency under the Ministry of Finance, protects revenue and facilitates trade. We make trade easy, fair and secure. We ensure compliance with customs regulations and collect taxes and duties on dutiable and taxable goods. We regulate the export of strategic goods and implement Singapore's commitments to some international trade regulations such as the United Nations Security Council Sanctions.

We work closely with other government agencies, industry partners, and international organisations in our mission and operations. With the use of data analytics, digitalisation of processes and various technologies, we continuously improve the efficiency and effectiveness of customs processes.

By proactively balancing the intricate requirements of trade facilitation, security and regulatory compliance, Singapore Customs strengthens Singapore's position as a global trade hub trusted by businesses operating in Singapore and foreign trading partners.

To find out more, visit our website at [www.customs.gov.sg](http://www.customs.gov.sg)

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## Annex A



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the two vans.



The two men arrested and duty-unpaid cigarettes seized.