



**SINGAPORE
CUSTOMS**

MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate

3 February 2025

SINGAPORE CUSTOMS STOPS TAX EVASION OF OVER \$450,000, ARRESTS TWO SUSPECTS

Singapore, 3 February 2025 – Singapore Customs (Customs) conducted an operation at Petir Road on 23 January 2025 and seized 4,228 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes and two vans. The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$457,968.

2 During the operation, Customs officers discovered 1,252 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in a parked van. Further investigation using a key found in the van led officers to a second van parked nearby, which contained another 2,976 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes. Drug paraphernalia were also found in one of the vans, and these were referred to the Central Narcotics Bureau for further investigation.

3 Two 29-year-old Singaporeans, a man and a woman, were arrested at the scene. Investigations revealed that the man was allegedly involved in delivering the duty-unpaid cigarettes. Court proceedings are ongoing against the man, while investigations are ongoing for the woman.

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 Singapore Customs remains steadfast in its efforts to detect and deter tax evasion. Members of public with information on smuggling activities or duty or GST evasion are encouraged to report it to Customs at <https://go.gov.sg/reportcustomsoffence>.

Annex A: Photos of the operation

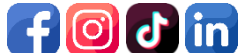
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About Singapore Customs

Singapore Customs protects revenue and facilitates trade for Singapore's economic growth while continuously striving to be a world-leading customs authority. As a partner of the Ministry of Finance, we ensure compliance with customs and tax regulations, safeguard the nation's financial interests, and combat illicit trade activities. We also enable seamless trade by simplifying customs processes, building global trade connectivity, and maintaining Singapore's position as a trusted global trading hub. Guided by our values of integrity, commitment, courage, responsiveness and teamwork, we strive for excellence with a professional and innovative team. Together, we ensure revenue and enable trade, fostering a thriving Singapore economy.

To find out more, visit our website at www.customs.gov.sg

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Annex A



The two vans parked side-by-side.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the two vans.