



**SINGAPORE  
CUSTOMS**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Immediate**

5 May 2025

### **MORE THAN 5,800 CARTONS OF DUTY-UNPAID CIGARETTES AND OVER \$6,000 IN CASH SEIZED AT CORPORATION DRIVE**

**Singapore, 5 May 2025** – In its ongoing efforts to detect and deter tax evasion, Singapore Customs (Customs) conducted an operation on 25 April 2025 at an industrial unit at Corporation Drive.

2 During the operation, officers observed a man opening the door to the industrial unit. He was immediately detained, and officers entered the premises, where they found two other men, numerous brown boxes and a lorry. Checks revealed 5,861 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes and \$6,100 in cash, suspected to be proceeds from the sale of the duty-unpaid cigarettes. All three men - a 34-year-old Indian national, a 27-year-old Chinese national, and a 22-year-old Malaysian - were arrested.

3 Further investigations identified a fourth suspect, a 47-year-old Malaysian man, who had allegedly driven the lorry with duty-unpaid cigarettes from Malaysia into Singapore earlier that day. He was arrested at Woodlands Checkpoint on the same day.

4 Customs investigations revealed that unknown persons had allegedly engaged the Chinese national and the 22-year-old Malaysian to unload and repack the duty-unpaid cigarettes. The Chinese national had, in turn, allegedly engaged the Indian national to assist in unloading the duty-unpaid cigarettes from the lorry in the industrial unit.

5 Customs seized the duty-unpaid cigarettes, the lorry and the cash. The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$634,851. Court proceedings are ongoing against the Chinese national and the two Malaysians. Investigations are ongoing for the Indian national.

6 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 the commission of such offences and proceeds of sales of duty-unpaid cigarettes are also liable to be forfeited.

7 Singapore Customs remains committed to enforcing strict compliance with customs regulations and protecting revenue. Members of public with information on smuggling activities or duty or GST evasion can report it to Customs at <https://go.gov.sg/reportcustomsoffence>.

Annex A: Photographs 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](http://www.customs.gov.sg)

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**Annex A**



The duty-unpaid cigarettes uncovered and the lorry involved.



The cash seized.



Two of the men arrested and the duty-unpaid cigarettes seized.