



**SINGAPORE
CUSTOMS**

MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate

4 August 2025

FOUR MEN ARRESTED AND OVER 4,000 CARTONS OF DUTY-UNPAID CIGARETTES SEIZED IN TWO OPERATIONS

Singapore, 4 August 2025 – Singapore Customs conducted two operations on 29 July 2025. We arrested four men and seized a total of 4,311 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes, as well as two vans. The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$466,958.

2 In the operation at a multi-storey carpark at Canberra Street, Customs officers conducted checks after a man they were observing was about to board a van. They found 2,881 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes inside the vehicle and the 30-year-old Singaporean was arrested. Investigations revealed that he was allegedly engaged by an unknown person to deliver the cigarettes.

3 In the other operation at an industrial building at Eunos Avenue 7, our officers saw a van reversing and parking near a cargo lift. While the male driver remained seated inside, two men alighted and one began unloading brown boxes from the van's rear cargo compartment. Upon seeing our officers approaching, the men attempted to flee and were apprehended. Our officers uncovered 1,170 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes inside the van, and another 260 cartons near the cargo lift. The three Bangladeshi men arrested are aged 29, 33 and 37.

4 Investigations are ongoing for the 29-year-old and 37-year-old men arrested at Eunus Avenue 7. Court proceedings are ongoing against the rest.

5 “Our officers’ firm actions on the ground underscore Singapore Customs’ continuous effort to detect and deter tax evasion, and the importance of vigilance and enforcement. We will continue to act decisively against those who choose to flout the law. We urge the public to play a part by reporting suspicious activities,” said a Singapore Customs spokesperson.

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 committing such offences are also subject to forfeiture.

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 operations

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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



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the operation at Canberra Street.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the operation at Eunost Avenue 7.