



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS 新加坡关税局 KASTAM SINGAPURA சிங்கப்பூர் கங்கத்துறை

MEDIA RELEASE

7 February 2023

Singapore Customs arrests two men and seizes more than 3,500 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes

Singapore Customs arrested two male Singaporeans, aged 30 and 63, and seized 3,550 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in an operation on 2 February 2023.

Case information

In an operation conducted at a car park in Hougang Ave 3, Singapore Customs officers sighted a 30-year-old male driver of a van unloading brown boxes from the vehicle onto a trolley for collection by a 63-year-old man. Officers conducted checks and uncovered 750 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in the van and the trolley. Both men were arrested.

Subsequently, officers conducted follow-up checks at an industrial unit in a building in Aljunied Road and uncovered another 2,800 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in the unit. A truck was seized at the open carpark near the industrial building.

Investigations revealed that the driver had allegedly used the seized truck to deliver duty-unpaid cigarettes to the industrial unit. He then allegedly used the van to collect the duty-unpaid cigarettes from the industrial unit and delivered them to the other man at Hougang Ave 3.

The duty-unpaid cigarettes and the two vehicles were seized. The total duty and Goods and Services tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$362,090 and \$32,230

respectively. Investigations are ongoing for the 30-year-old male driver. The 63-year-old man was prosecuted and pending court proceedings.

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. Repeat offenders who are caught with more than two kilogrammes of tobacco products will also face mandatory imprisonment. Vehicles used in the commission of such offences are also liable to be forfeited.

Members of public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of 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

7 February 2023

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ANNEX



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the van and the trolley.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the industrial unit.



The truck allegedly used to deliver duty-unpaid cigarettes to the industrial unit.



The two men arrested and duty-unpaid cigarettes seized.