



**SINGAPORE CUSTOMS** 新加坡关税局 **KASTAM SINGAPURA** சிங்கப்பூர் கங்கத்துறை

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

7 September 2022

### **Singapore Customs arrests two men and seizes more than 3,700 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes**

Singapore Customs arrested a Bangladeshi, 38, and a Singaporean, 24, and seized more than 3,700 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in an operation on 5 September 2022.

#### Case information

Singapore Customs officers mounted an operation at an industrial building in the vicinity of Corporation Drive, where they kept watch on a unit which the two men had entered into earlier. As one of the men was exiting the unit, officers moved in to conduct a check. They uncovered 3,744 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes wrapped in black trash bags, and 288 empty green baskets that were allegedly used as cover loads for the duty-unpaid cigarettes. Both men were arrested.

All the duty-unpaid cigarettes found were seized in the operation. The total duty and Goods and Services tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$319,730 and \$25,440 respectively. Investigations are ongoing.

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.

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](mailto:customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg) to report these illegal activities.

**Singapore Customs**

**7 September 2022**

**#####**

## ANNEX



Duty-unpaid cigarettes and green baskets found in the unit



Green baskets allegedly used as cover loads for duty-unpaid cigarettes



A total of 3,744 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes seized