



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

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

31 October 2019

### **Four repeat offenders convicted for dealing with duty-unpaid cigarettes**

Four Singaporean men – Kamaruddin bin Abdul Latiff, 51 years old; Mohamad Khair bin Jonid, 51 years old; Noor Hazlan bin Selamat, 51 years old; and Rahmad bin Mohd Yasin, 38 years old – were sentenced by the State Courts in October 2019 to between 33 months' and 105 days' and 45 months' imprisonment, and fined between \$8 million and \$34 million, for dealing with duty-unpaid cigarettes. As all four men were previously convicted for offences involving duty-unpaid cigarettes, they were liable to enhanced punishment under the Customs Act. Please refer to Annex for the individual sentencing outcomes.

On 23 March 2018, Singapore Customs officers conducted a check on a 20-foot container parked at an industrial building in Sunview Road and uncovered 10,800 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes.

Investigations revealed that between February and March 2018, Rahmad had approached Noor Hazlan to source for a warehouse unit to store duty-unpaid cigarettes. Noor Hazlan then engaged Mohamad Khair to rent a warehouse unit for this purpose. In return, Rahmad offered to pay Noor Hazlan and Mohamad Khair \$2,500 each for every successful shipment of duty-unpaid cigarettes delivered to the unit.

Investigations also revealed that in March 2018, Kamaruddin had purchased 2,500 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes from Rahmad. The 2,500 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were part of the consignment seized on 23 March 2018.

The total duty and Goods and Service Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$1,123,010 and \$81,410 respectively.

Buying, selling, conveying, delivering, storing, keeping, having in possession 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. 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 Customs duty or GST can call the Singapore Customs hotline on 1800-2330000, email [customs\\_intelligence@customs.gov.sg](mailto:customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg) or use Customs@SG mobile app (which can be downloaded from the Apple Store or Google Play) to report these illegal activities.

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## ANNEX



On 23 March 2018, Singapore Customs officers conducted a check on a 20-foot container at an industrial building in Sunview Road.





A total of 10,800 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes seized.

### **Sentencing Outcomes**

#### **Kamaruddin bin Abdul Latiff**

33 months' imprisonment and fine of \$8 million, in default 21 months' imprisonment, and enhanced sentence of 105 days' imprisonment pursuant to section 50T(1)(a) of the Prisons Act for breach of basic conditions of remission order.

#### **Mohamad Khair bin Jonid**

42 months' imprisonment and fine of \$34 million, in default 28 months' imprisonment.

#### **Noor Hazlan bin Selamat**

42 months' imprisonment and fine of \$34 million, in default 28 months' imprisonment.

#### **Rahmad bin Mohd Yasin**

45 months' imprisonment and fine of \$34 million, in default 28 months' imprisonment.

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