



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

MEDIA RELEASE

27 December 2019

Singapore Customs arrested three men and seized 7,392 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes

Singapore Customs arrested three men and seized 7,392 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in an operation conducted at the vicinity of Sunview Road on 21 December 2019.

Singapore Customs officers conducted observation at an industrial building at Sunview Road and saw the transfer of boxes suspected to contain duty-unpaid cigarettes from a Malaysia-registered truck to a Singapore-registered truck parked beside it. Officers moved in to conduct checks and found 7,392 cartons of cigarettes. Three men – a Singaporean, and two Malaysians, aged between 35 and 39 - were placed under arrest. The cigarettes were seized.

Subsequently a follow-up search was conducted at an industrial unit in Gul Road, where officers uncovered 14 hollow concrete blocks. Investigations revealed that the duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the two trucks were earlier retrieved from these concrete blocks.

A total of 7,392 duty-unpaid cigarettes and two trucks were seized in this operation. The duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$631,270 and \$46,540 respectively. Court proceedings against the three men are ongoing.

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 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



Officers uncovered duty-unpaid cigarettes in two trucks found at the vicinity of Sunview Road.



14 concrete blocks which had concealed the duty-unpaid cigarettes were found during the follow-up search at an industrial unit in Gul Road.



A total of 7,392 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized from the operation.

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