

SINGAPORE CUSTOMS ARRESTED 2 MALE SINGAPOREANS AND SEIZED 47,088 BOTTLES OF CONTRABAND VODKA

Singapore Customs arrested 2 Singaporeans and seized a total of 47,088 bottles of duty-unpaid vodka worth \$1.4 million.

Officers of the Special Investigations Branch of Singapore Customs carried out investigations and conducted island-wide raids on 4 and 5 Jun 2003, following up from the detection of a container of vodka by Immigrations & Checkpoints Authority (ICA).

As a result of the prompt action taken by Customs officers, a second container containing 23,544 bottles of contraband vodka was subsequently seized at No 9, Jalan Tepong (Jurong area). The raids, which were conducted throughout yesterday and this morning resulted in the arrest of 2 Singaporean male Chinese (aged 35 and 42 years) who were involved in the importation of the 2 containers.

Investigations by Customs revealed that the 2 containers were imported by a local company, M/s Kia Boon Food Pte Ltd at 9 Jalan Tepong, off Fishery Port Road in Jurong. The containers were declared as fruit drinks in the import permit submitted by the company. The company was registered since August 2002 and is said to be dealing in foodstuffs. Of the 2 people arrested, one is the director of the company. The other, a 35-year-old unemployed man was arrested in his Bishan flat on 5 Jun 2003 at about 10 pm.

The value of the 47,088 bottles of vodka seized from the 2 containers amounted to \$1.4 million. The customs duty and GST evaded are \$635,688 and \$56,000 respectively.

The 2 Singaporeans arrested will be charged in court for the importation of the duty-unpaid vodka on 6 Jun 03. Customs will be investigating into the past imports of the company.

“Following the detection of the container-load of vodka yesterday, 5 teams of Customs officers sprang into action and conducted island-wide raids. Our prompt and well-coordinated action resulted in the haul of another container with more than 23,500 bottles of contraband vodka and the arrest of the culprits. The 2 men will be charged in court tomorrow,” said Mr Long Foo Liew, Head of Special Investigations Branch.

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SINGAPORE CUSTOMS

5 Jun 2003