

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **ONE MAN ARRESTED AND 1299 CARTONS OF DUTY UNPAID CIGARETTES SEIZED FROM HIS VAN**

On 11 June 2004 at about 1.00 pm, Customs Special Investigations Branch officers arrested one male Chinese Singaporean (aged 33) and seized 1,299 cartons assorted brands of duty-unpaid cigarettes in a van at Serangoon North Avenue 4.

The Customs duty and GST of the cigarettes were \$101,581.80 and \$5,079.09 respectively. The market value of the cigarettes amounted to \$123,405.00.

Acting on intelligence gathered, a party of Customs officers kept watch in a car park of Block 500 at Serangoon North Avenue 4 for a Singapore registered van suspected to be conveying contraband cigarettes. The suspect van arrived at about 1.00 pm. On searching the van, the officers found a total of 1,299 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes. The contraband was seized and the van driver was arrested.

The offender will be charged in Court on 12 June 2004. Upon conviction, he may be fined up to 20 times the tax evaded or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or to both.

Members of the public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of customs duty or GST may contact the Singapore Customs Intelligence Hotline on 1800-2330000 or email to [customs\\_intelligence@customs.gov.sg](mailto:customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg)

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**Singapore Customs**  
11 June 2004