



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

MEDIA RELEASE

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Former air stewardess fined S\$36,000 for smuggling duty-unpaid cigarettes into Singapore

A former air stewardess was sentenced by the court on 19 June 2013 to a fine of S\$36,000 or in default four months and one week's jail for smuggling duty-unpaid cigarettes into Singapore.

On 5 December 2012, Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) officers manning the customs channel at Changi Airport Terminal 2 stopped Shahryanty Binte Zam Zam, 24, for a routine check.

Shahryanty, who was returning to Singapore after her flight duty, informed the ICA officers that she did not have any dutiable items to declare. When the ICA officers proceeded to check her luggage, they found 19 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes of various brands in her bags. The case was then referred to Singapore Customs.

Investigations by Singapore Customs officers revealed that Shahryanty had intended to smuggle duty-unpaid cigarettes into Singapore for her friend Mohamad Shidique Bin Mohd Shariff, 24, to sell to his friends at a profit. Both of them thought that Shahryanty's status as a cabin crew would enable her to leave the airport without being checked.

Singapore Customs officers subsequently raided Mohamad Shidique's flat at Marsiling Drive and recovered 10 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes.

A total of 29 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes worth more than \$2,700 were seized in this case. The duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded exceeded \$2,200.

Mohamad Shidique, who had requested Shahryanty to smuggle in duty-unpaid cigarettes for him to sell at a profit, was sentenced on 18 June 2013 to a fine of S\$40,000 or in default seven months' jail.

Singapore Customs advisory

Duty-free concession is not applicable for cigarettes and other tobacco products. All cigarettes, including those with the 'SDPC' (Singapore Duty-Paid Cigarette) mark, and tobacco products are subject to duty and GST when brought in by travellers to Singapore.

Arriving travellers and returning Singaporeans should familiarise themselves with Singapore's customs regulations (available online at www.customs.gov.sg). It is the

responsibility of travellers to make an accurate and complete declaration of the dutiable and taxable items in their possession.

Failure to make a declaration is an offence under the Customs Act and the GST Act. Offenders may be prosecuted in court and fined up to S\$10,000 or 20 times the amount of duty and GST, whichever is higher, and/or jailed for up to three years.

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 will be severely dealt with. They can be fined up to 40 times the amount of duty and GST evaded and/or jailed for up to six years.

The minimum court fine for first-time and repeat offenders of tobacco-related offences are \$2,000 and \$4,000 respectively. Repeat offenders who are caught with more than two kilogrammes of tobacco products will also face mandatory imprisonment.

Immigration & Checkpoints Authority advisory

Our borders are our first line of defence in safeguarding Singapore's security. The security checks are critical to our nation's security. The Immigration & Checkpoints Authority will continue to conduct security checks on passengers and vehicles at the checkpoints to prevent attempts to smuggle in undesirable persons, drugs, weapons, explosives and other contraband. The same methods of concealment used by contraband smugglers may be used by terrorists to smuggle arms and explosives to carry out attacks in Singapore.