



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

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

9 October 2016

### **Two Singaporean men jailed for dealing with duty-unpaid cigarettes**

Two Singaporean men, Kamaruddin Bin Abdul Latiff, 48, and Azman Bin Mohd Yunos, 50, were sentenced by the State Courts on 6 October 2016 to imprisonment terms of 21 months and 16 months respectively for dealing with duty-unpaid cigarettes.

On 4 October 2016, Singapore Customs officers mounted an operation in Loyang Way. They saw Kamaruddin and Azman arriving in two Singapore-registered vans. Both men were then seen unloading boxes from another Singapore-registered van and loading the boxes onto their respective vans.

The officers moved in for a check and they found 1,494 cartons and 60 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes in the van driven by Kamaruddin, and 896 cartons and 40 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes in the van driven by Azman.

The duty-unpaid cigarettes and the three vans were seized. The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) involved in this case amounted to more than \$262,600. Investigations are ongoing to identify other suspects involved in the case.

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 is \$2,000 and \$4,000 respectively. Repeat offenders who are caught with more than two kilogrammes of tobacco products will also face mandatory jail sentences. Vehicles used in the commission of such offences are also liable to be forfeited.

Members of the 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



Boxes of duty-unpaid cigarettes were found in the vans driven by Kamaruddin and Azman.



A total of 2,390 cartons and 100 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized in this operation.

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