



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

MEDIA RELEASE

16 June 2017

Company director fined \$28,260 for importing duty-unpaid cigarettes through parcel post and storing cigarettes in residence

A company director was sentenced by the State Courts on 15 June 2017 to a fine of \$28,260, or in default 113 days' imprisonment, for importing and storing duty-unpaid cigarettes.

On 13 June 2017, Singapore Customs officers trailed a parcel, declared to contain "towels and magazines", as it was delivered to an office in the Marina Bay Financial Centre. A staff of the company received the parcel on behalf of her employer, Yin Xidi (尹喜地), 45, a Chinese national.

Later the same day, Singapore Customs officers arrived at Yin's residential unit in Marina Boulevard. In Yin's presence, the officers opened the parcel and recovered nine cartons and 10 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes from it.

The officers then searched Yin's residential unit and recovered another 15 cartons, three packets and 16 sticks of duty-unpaid cigarettes.

Investigations revealed that Yin had asked his friend overseas to send duty-unpaid cigarettes through parcel post to him for his own consumption. He was aware that the duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) for the cigarettes were not paid.

A total of 24 cartons, 13 packets and 16 sticks of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized in this operation. The total amount of duty and GST involved amounted to about \$1,960 and \$140 respectively.

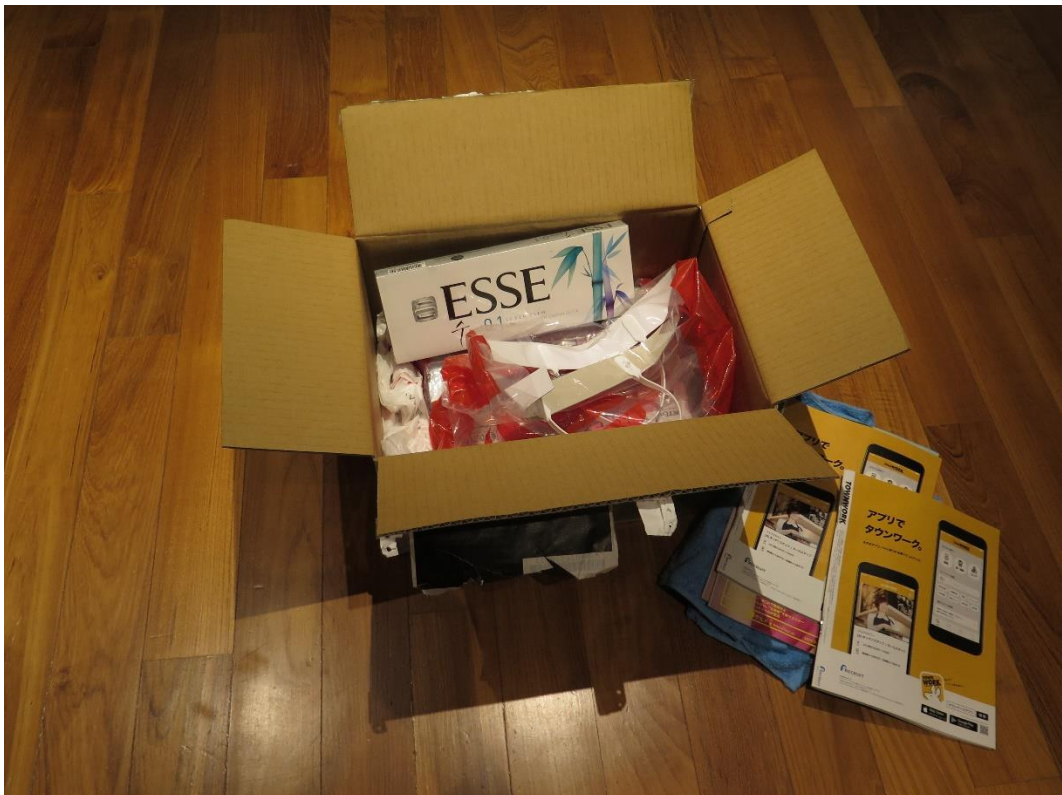
“Those who think they can avoid detection by importing duty-unpaid cigarettes through parcel post should think twice,” said Mr Yeo Ban Meng, Head of Suppression and Community Engagement, Singapore Customs (新加坡关税局反走私与社区参与处处长杨万铭). “Stringent checks are conducted on parcel posts. We are keeping a close watch and such offenders will be prosecuted in accordance with the law.”

Under the Customs Act, any person who is guilty of importing dutiable goods with the intention to defraud the Government of any duty and GST will be liable on conviction to a fine of up to 40 times the amount of duty and GST evaded and/or jailed for up to six years.

Repeat offenders who are caught with more than two kilogrammes of tobacco products will also face mandatory imprisonment.

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ANNEX



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