



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

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

15 August 2017

### **Man sentenced to 17 months' imprisonment for dealing with duty-unpaid cigarettes**

An Indonesian man Suryadi Memet, 21, was sentenced by the State Courts on 15 August 2017 to 17 months' imprisonment for dealing with duty-unpaid cigarettes.

On 5 August 2017 around midnight, Singapore Customs officers trailed a truck as it delivered boxes of goods to the Geylang Serai Market. The boxes of goods, which were unstuffed from an import container, were declared as food items in an import permit taken up by a local trading company. The goods belonged to different owners but the local trading company had allowed itself to be declared as the importer of the container.

When the truck arrived at the market, Singapore Customs officers saw Suryadi waiting nearby to collect the boxes from the truck. The officers moved in to conduct a check on the boxes in the truck, and they found a total of 706 cartons and 1,445 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes concealed under banana leaves in the boxes. Suryadi was arrested. The trading company that took up the import permit for the container in which the duty-unpaid cigarettes were found is also under investigation.

The duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$85,550 and \$6,230 respectively.

"Singapore Customs will not let up on our enforcement efforts against offenders who are involved in such smuggling activities," said Mr Yeo Sew Meng, Assistant Director-General (Intelligence and Investigation), Singapore Customs [新加坡关税局助理局长(情报与调查)杨秀明].

"We also urge traders who allow themselves to be named as the importer or exporter of goods to ensure that all the information provided in their TradeNet declarations are true and accurate. They should refrain from acting as the importer or exporter for goods which do not belong to them as they will be held liable for any wrong declarations, and be subjected to penalties if the goods contravene the Customs Act or other relevant legislation," said Mr Yeo.

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 can be fined 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. Vehicles used in the commission of such offences are also liable to be forfeited.

Under the Customs Act, a person guilty of making an incorrect declaration is liable on conviction to a fine up to S\$10,000 or one time the amount of duty and GST, whichever is higher, and/or imprisonment for up to 12 months.

Members of 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](mailto: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



Cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were found hidden under banana leaves in the boxes of goods declared as food items.



A total of 706 cartons and 1,445 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized in this operation.

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