



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

MEDIA RELEASE

15 December 2017

Man on bail arrested again for suspected involvement in duty-unpaid cigarette activities

He was charged in the State Courts in August 2017 for dealing with duty-unpaid cigarettes and was released on bail pending further court proceedings.

However, he was arrested for being involved with duty-unpaid cigarettes again on 13 December 2017.

The 37-year-old Singaporean man was caught in a Singapore Customs operation in the multi-storey car park of a shopping mall in East Coast Road. Singapore Customs officers conducted surveillance in the car park and saw the man driving a car into the car park and parking beside a silver van.

The officers then saw the man alighting from his car and opening the door of the van and conducted a check on him and the two vehicles. A total of 1,375 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes kept in several canvas bags were found in the van.

The officers followed up with another search in Lorong 20 Geylang. Using a vehicle key found in the car, they unlocked a white van parked in Lorong 20 Geylang and uncovered another 200 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes from the van.

The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$145,960 and \$10,680 respectively.

Singapore Customs officers also seized a frequency jammer, which is a controlled item, found in the car.

Investigations are ongoing.

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.

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.

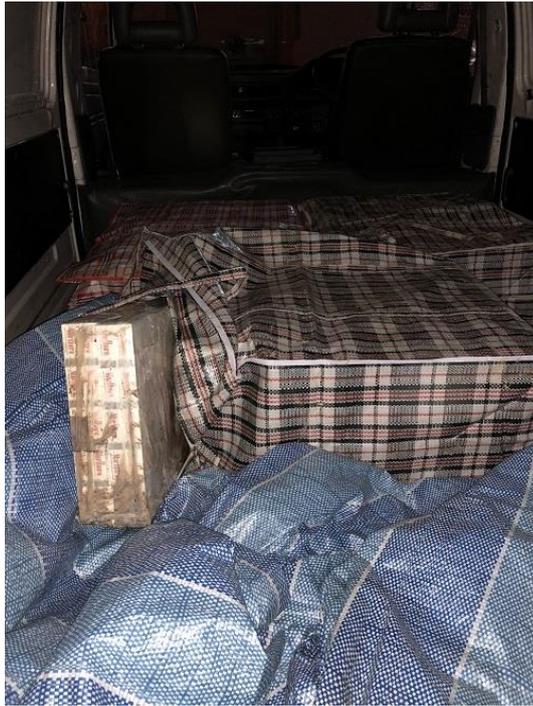
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ANNEX



A total of 1,375 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized from the silver van parked in a multi-storey car park in East Coast Road.





The discovery of a vehicle key in the car led to the uncovering of another 200 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in a white van parked in Lorong 20 Geylang.



A frequency jammer was also seized.

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