



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

MEDIA RELEASE

15 January 2019

Singapore Customs arrests six men and seizes over 3,800 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes

Singapore Customs arrested six men and seized over 3,800 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes during an operation in an industrial building in Admiralty Street on 11 January 2019.

That morning, Singapore Customs officers raided a unit in the building, which was suspected to be used for duty-unpaid cigarette activities. In the unit, the officers found 3,828 cartons and 3,085 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes, which were hidden in bed frames and packed in boxes. Four men, one Indonesian and three Singaporeans, were arrested on the spot.

Investigations revealed that the four men were engaged to retrieve the duty-unpaid cigarettes hidden in the bed frames and pack them into boxes for delivery to other parts of Singapore.

Another two Singaporean men, suspected to be involved in the case, were also arrested that afternoon.

All six men are currently assisting Singapore Customs in further investigations.

The duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$353,250 and \$26,040 respectively.

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

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 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



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