



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

MEDIA RELEASE

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Singapore Customs arrested three men and seized 3,409 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes concealed in cable spools

Singapore Customs arrested three men and seized 3,409 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in an operation conducted in a warehouse unit at Gambas Crescent on 6 September 2019.

In the evening of 6 September 2019, Singapore Customs officers kept watch on a warehouse unit at a commercial building in Gambas Crescent that was suspected to be used for illicit cigarettes activities. During the operation, two men were seen using pallet jacks to move 10 large spools of cable wires from the loading/unloading bay into the unit. Shortly after, another man was seen entering the unit. Officers later moved in and found the men retrieving the duty-unpaid cigarettes concealed in the cable spools and packing them in canvas bags. All three Malaysian men, aged between 23 and 51, were arrested.

Investigations revealed that the three men were engaged by an unknown man to retrieve the duty-unpaid cigarettes concealed in the cable spools and pack them into the canvas bags for delivery to other parts of Singapore.

The operation resulted in the seizure of a total of 3,409 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes. The duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$291,120 and \$21,460 respectively. All three men were charged in court on 7 September 2019, and the court had granted the application for all men to be remanded for one week for further investigations.

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





Singapore Customs officers conducted an operation at a warehouse unit in Gambas Crescent and uncovered duty-unpaid cigarettes concealed in the drums of cable spools. Three Malaysians were arrested.



A total of 3,409 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized.

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