



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

MEDIA RELEASE

20 September 2019

Three men arrested for involvement in duty-unpaid liquor activities

Three Chinese nationals, aged between 25 and 40 years old, were arrested in an operation conducted on 12 and 13 September 2019 for their involvement in duty-unpaid liquor activities.

On 12 September 2019, Singapore Customs officers mounted an operation at a void deck of a HDB block in Jurong East Street 13. During the operation, a man was found with six bottles of duty-unpaid liquor. Officers uncovered another three bottles of duty-unpaid liquor in a follow-up search at the man's place of residence. The man was arrested for dealing with duty-unpaid liquor.

Investigations revealed that the man had purchased the duty-unpaid liquor from two other men who had manufactured the duty-unpaid liquor.

On 13 September 2019, Singapore Customs officers raided a HDB unit in Bukit Batok Street 21. Officers arrested the two men for manufacturing dutiable liquor and possession of still without a licence, and storing duty-unpaid liquor. The operation resulted in the seizure of one porcelain jar and nine bottles of duty-unpaid liquor with an estimated volume of 58 litres, and assorted manufacturing apparatuses.

Investigations are still 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 can be fined up to 40 times the amount of duty and GST evaded and/or jailed for up to six years.

Manufacturing dutiable goods or having in possession any still, utensil, apparatus, equipment or machinery for the manufacture of dutiable goods without a licence are offences under the Customs Act. Offenders can be fined up to \$5,000 and/or jailed for up to 18 months.

Members of public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of Customs duty or GST can call the Singapore Customs hotline on 1800-233-0000, 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



Assorted manufacturing apparatuses seized from the HDB unit in Bukit Batok



Duty-unpaid liquor seized in Jurong East



Porcelain jar containing duty-unpaid liquor



Still for distilling liquor



Pails containing fermenting mash

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