



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS 新加坡关税局 KASTAM SINGAPURA சிங்கப்பூர் கங்கத்துறை

MEDIA RELEASE

16 October 2020

Singapore Customs arrests eight men and two women and seizes more than 2,600 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes

Singapore Customs arrested eight men and two women, aged between 23 and 69, and seized more than 2,600 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes during seven separate operations across Singapore from 5 to 9 October 2020.

In two of the operations, Singapore Customs officers raided two HDB units at King George's Avenue and Serangoon North Avenue 4 that were used for storage and peddling of duty-unpaid cigarettes. Two Singaporean men and a Chinese national man were arrested, and 639 cartons and 20 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized in the operations.

In three other operations conducted at Kang Ching Road, Eunos Industrial Park and Realty Park, Singapore Customs officers foiled attempts made to retrieve shipments of duty-unpaid cigarettes that were concealed in cover loads such as metal oven, wooden shelves and an air purifier unit. Two Chinese national men and a Singaporean woman were arrested, and 1,596 cartons and 5,942 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized in the operations.

In two other operations conducted at Yishun Ring Road and Jurong West St 93, Singapore Customs officers arrested four Singaporeans, three men and a woman, for storing and delivering duty-unpaid cigarettes. A total of 369 cartons and 908 packets of cigarettes were seized.

Court proceedings against four of the men and one of the women are ongoing. Investigations are ongoing for the remaining four men and one woman.

The operations resulted in the seizure of a total of 2,604 cartons and 6,870 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes and a vehicle. The duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$293,700 and \$23,590 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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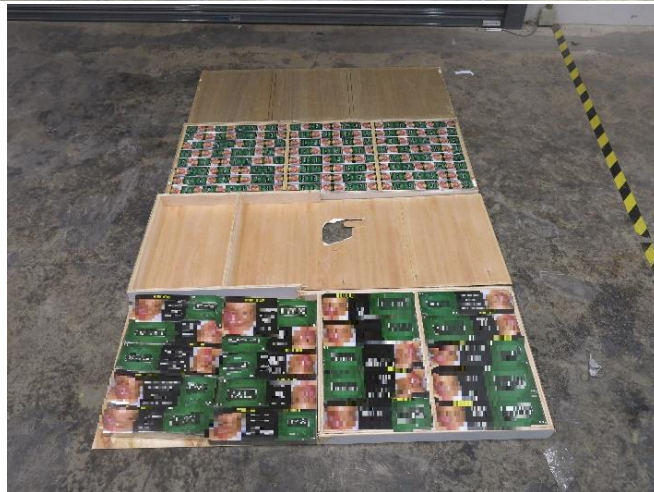
Singapore Customs

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ANNEX



Duty-unpaid cigarettes seized from two HDB units at King George's Avenue and Serangoon North Avenue 4.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes were concealed in a metal oven and wooden shelves that were sent to Kang Ching Road and Eunos Industrial Park for retrieval.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found concealed in an air purifier unit that was sent to Realty Park.



Vehicle used for storage and delivery of duty-unpaid cigarettes at Yishun Ring Road.