



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS 新加坡关税局 KASTAM SINGAPURA சிங்கப்பூர் கங்கத்துறை

MEDIA RELEASE

3 February 2021

Singapore Customs arrests a man and seizes 2,300 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes

Singapore Customs arrested a Chinese national, aged 33, and seized 2,300 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes during an operation at the back lane between Tuas South Street 1 and Tuas South Street 3 on 29 January 2021.

During the operation, Singapore Customs officers observed the man walking towards a Singapore-registered van parked at the back lane. The van was suspected to contain duty-unpaid cigarettes. As the man unlocked the door of the van, officers moved in to check and found brown carton boxes labelled as “dried noodles” containing duty-unpaid cigarettes in the van. The man was arrested on the spot.

Investigations revealed that the man was engaged by an unknown man to deliver duty-unpaid cigarettes to buyers using the van.

The operation resulted in the seizure of a total of 2,300 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes. The duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$196,420 and \$15,900 respectively. The van was also seized.

Court proceedings against the man 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 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 and proceeds of sales of duty-unpaid cigarettes 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 or email customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg to report these illegal activities.

Singapore Customs
3 February 2021

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ANNEX



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in carton boxes labelled as “dried noodles” in the van.



2,300 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized.