



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

MEDIA RELEASE

14 April 2021

Singapore Customs arrests six men and seizes 8,580 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes

Singapore Customs arrested five Malaysian and one Indonesian men, aged between 22 and 37, and seized 8,580 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in a joint operation with the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority on 8 April 2021.

On the evening of 8 April 2021, Singapore Customs officers mounted an operation at a storage yard in Penjuru Walk. Several men were seen entering the premises, and they started to dismantle concrete slabs with sledgehammers.

Carton boxes, suspected to contain duty-unpaid cigarettes, were then retrieved from the hollow compartment of the smashed concrete slabs. Some of the carton boxes were being loaded onto a Singapore-registered truck when Singapore Customs officers moved in to raid the premises.

The joint operation led to a seizure of 8,580 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes retrieved from 12 concrete blocks. The truck onto which some of the duty-unpaid cigarettes was loaded was also seized. Six men were placed under arrest and brought back for investigations.

The total duty and Goods and Services tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$732,730 and \$58,780 respectively. Court proceedings against the six men 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 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 1800-233-0000 or email customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg to report these illegal activities.

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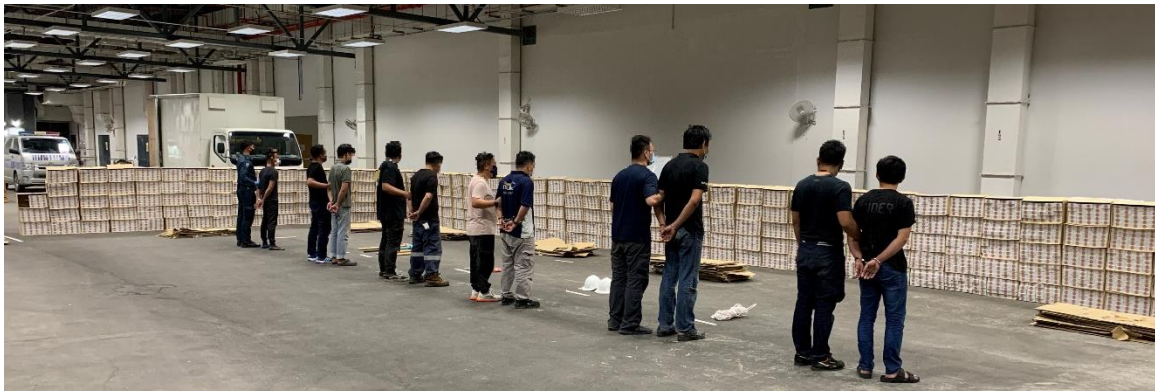
Annex



The Singapore-registered truck (left) and concrete slabs containing carton boxes of duty-unpaid cigarettes (right) found at a storage yard at Penjuru Walk.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes concealed in the hollow compartment of the concrete slabs.



Six men arrested and 8,580 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes seized during the operation.