



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

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

23 June 2021

### **More than 2,980 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes seized, four men arrested in Singapore Customs operation**

Singapore Customs arrested four Singaporean men, aged between 21 and 48, and seized more than 2,980 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in an operation on 18 June 2021.

#### Case information

In the afternoon of 18 June 2021, Singapore Customs officers mounted an operation at a heavy vehicle carpark at Yishun Avenue 7. Singapore Customs officers observed two Singapore-registered trucks parked next to each other. Three men were seen transferring long pieces of metal planks from one truck to the other. Later, another man alighted from one truck and boarded the other truck to shift it close to the first truck.

Officers moved in to conduct a check and found 2,982 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes, some of which were still concealed in metal planks in the cargo compartment of one of the trucks.

The operation led to a seizure of two trucks and 2,982 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes, with the four men arrested.

The total duty and Goods and Services tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$254,660 and \$20,430 respectively. Court proceedings are ongoing against three men while investigations are ongoing against the fourth.

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 1800-233-0000 or email [customs\\_intelligence@customs.gov.sg](mailto:customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg) to report these illegal activities.

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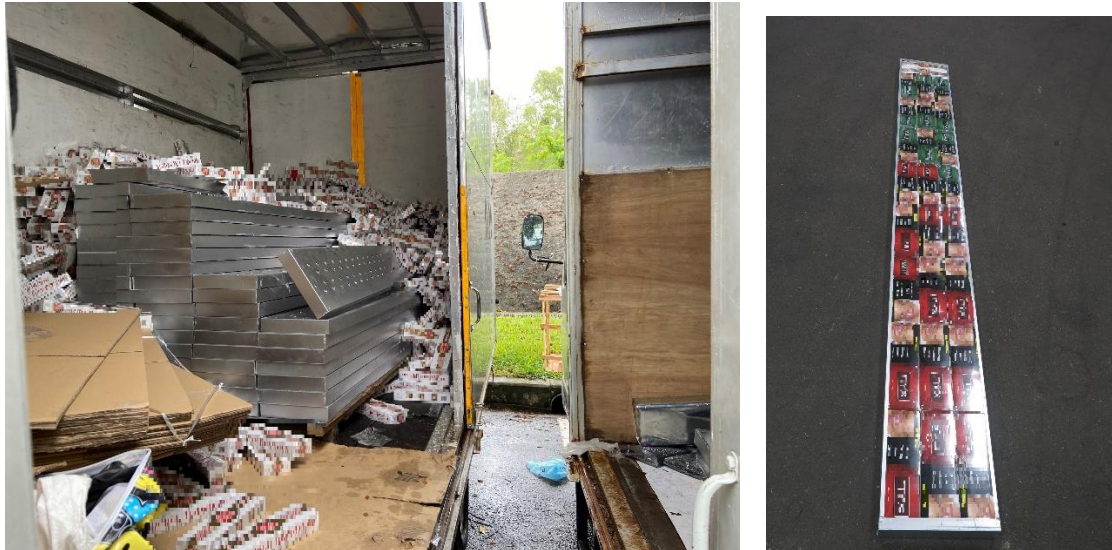
**Singapore Customs**

**23 June 2021**

## Annex



The two Singapore-registered trucks parked next to each other.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes, some of which were concealed in metal planks in the cargo compartment of one of the trucks.



Four men arrested and two Singapore-registered trucks and 2,982 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized during the operation.