



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Immediate**

14 September 2023

### **OVER 2,500 CARTONS OF DUTY-UNPAID CIGARETTES SEIZED IN SINGAPORE CUSTOMS OPERATION**

*40-year-old Malaysian male arrested with two vehicles seized.*

Singapore, 14 September 2023 – In its ongoing efforts to detect and deter tax evasion, Singapore Customs conducted an operation at a multi-storey carpark in Bukit Batok Street 24 on 7 September 2023.

2 A man was seen transferring brown boxes from a van to an adjacent car. Officers conducted checks on the two vehicles and uncovered a total of 2,550 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes packed inside these brown boxes. The man, a Malaysian aged 40, was arrested. Both vehicles as well as the duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized.

3 The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded in the duty-unpaid cigarettes amounted to \$272,952. Court proceedings are ongoing.

4 Buying, selling, conveying, delivering, storing, keeping, possessing 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.

5 Members of public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of duty or GST can call the Singapore Customs hotline on 1800-2330000 or email [customs\\_intelligence@customs.gov.sg](mailto:customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg) to report these illegal activities.

Annex A: Photos of the operations

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### **About Singapore Customs**

Singapore Customs, a lead agency under the Ministry of Finance, protects revenue and facilitates trade. We make trade easy, fair and secure. We ensure compliance with customs regulations and collect taxes and duties on dutiable and taxable goods. We promote trade competitiveness and ensure the security of the supply chain.

We work closely with other government agencies, industry partners, and international organisations as we safeguard Singapore's borders against potential risks and threats. With the use of data analytics and various advanced technologies, we continuously leverage digital initiatives to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of customs processes.

By proactively balancing these intricate requirements of trade facilitation, security and regulatory compliance, Singapore Customs strengthens Singapore's position as a global trade hub trusted by businesses operating in Singapore and foreign trading partners.

To find out more, visit our website at [www.customs.gov.sg](http://www.customs.gov.sg)  
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## ANNEX A



Vehicles seized in the operation



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in a van (left) and a car (right)  
at a multi-storey carpark in Bukit Batok Street 24



The man arrested and the duty-unpaid cigarettes seized