



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

MEDIA RELEASE

11 March 2022

Singapore Customs arrests two men and seizes more than 2,000 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes

Singapore Customs arrested two male Singaporeans, aged 26 and 31, and seized more than 2,000 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in an operation on 10 March 2022.

Case information

During the operation conducted at a multi-storey carpark in the vicinity of Yishun Street 42, Singapore Customs officers observed two men standing in between two Singapore-registered vans with their side compartment doors opened. There were many brown boxes in one of the vans. Suspecting that the men were dealing with duty-unpaid cigarettes, officers conducted a check and found 2,016 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in the van.

Officers also found a pouch suspected to contain controlled drugs and drug paraphernalia in the other van. The matter was referred to the Singapore Police Force for further investigation.

The duty-unpaid cigarettes and the two vans were seized, and the total duty and Goods and Services tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$172,160 and \$13,700 respectively. Both men were arrested and investigations are ongoing.

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 liable to be forfeited.

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 to report these illegal activities.

Singapore Customs

11 March 2022

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ANNEX



Two vans parked side by side.



Brown boxes found in one of the vans.



A total of 2,016 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes seized.