



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS 新加坡关税局 KASTAM SINGAPURA சிங்கப்பூர் கங்கத்துறை

MEDIA RELEASE

5 November 2022

Singapore Customs arrests a man and seizes more than 3,600 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes

Singapore Customs arrested a 31-year-old Malaysian male and seized a total of 3,644 cartons and 80 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes in an operation on 3 November 2022.

Case information

In an operation conducted in the vicinity of Sembawang Crescent, Singapore Customs officers checked a van loaded with brown boxes and uncovered 1,112 cartons and 80 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes. The driver of the van was placed under arrest.

Officers conducted a search on the driver and found another set of keys to a second van that was parked in a near-by multistorey carpark. A follow-up search of the second van and the man's residence led to a seizure of another 2,500 cartons and 32 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes respectively.

Twelve cartons of heat-not-burn tobacco products were also found in the second van and the matter was referred to the Health Sciences Authority for further investigation.

Investigations revealed the man was allegedly engaged by an unknown person via a social messaging platform to use the two vans to collect, store and deliver duty-unpaid cigarettes.

All the duty-unpaid cigarettes and two vehicles were seized in the operation. The total duty and Goods and Services tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$369,260 and \$28,650 respectively. 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 also 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

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ANNEX



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the first van



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the second van



A total of 3,644 cartons and 80 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes and two vans seized