

PRESS RELEASE

SINGAPORE CUSTOMS SEIZED 200 CARTONS OF CONTRABAND CIGARETTES AND OVER 6,500 PIECES OF UNCENSORED VCDs, DVDs

On 3 May 2004, Customs Special Investigation Branch officers arrested one male Indian Malaysian (aged 30, truck driver), one male Chinese Malaysian (aged 38, truck attendant) and seized 200 cartons of assorted brands of duty-unpaid cigarettes and 6,520 pieces of uncensored VCDs, DVDs and music CDs. The customs duty and GST on the cigarettes were \$11,720.00 and \$782.00 respectively. The market value amounted to \$19,000.00. The GST on the VCDs, DVDs and music CDs was \$383.00. All the items were found in a hidden compartment, concealed by wooden planks, at the front of the truck's storage area just behind the driver's cabin.

Acting on intelligence gathered, Customs officers mounted an operation on 29 April to 3 May 2004 at the vicinity of Marsiling area to keep watch for a Malaysian registered bonded truck suspected to be conveying contraband. On 3 May 2004, at about 9.15 pm, the officers saw the suspect truck and intercepted it at the traffic junction between Admiralty Road and Marsiling Drive. The truck was searched. In the course of the check, the officers detected a false compartment between the driver's cabin and the front of the truck's storage area. On removing the wooden partition, 200 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes and 6,520 pieces of uncensored DVDs, VCDs and music CDs were found. Of these, about 2,480 were obscene.

The men will be charged in court on 5 May 2004. Upon conviction by the court, they may be fined up to 20 times the tax evaded or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or to both.

Members of the public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of customs duty or GST may contact the Singapore Customs Intelligence Hotline on 1800-2330000 or email to customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg

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Singapore Customs
4 May 2004