



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

MEDIA RELEASE

27 March 2017

Singapore Customs seized 3,934 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes from two related operations on the same day

Singapore Customs seized a total of 3,934 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes from two related operations on 24 March 2017.

Three Malaysian men, all aged 23, were charged in the State Courts on 25 March 2017 for dealing with duty-unpaid cigarettes. Court proceedings for the three men are ongoing.

In the early hours of 24 March 2017, Singapore Customs officers mounted an operation at a commercial building in Toh Guan Road. The officers kept a close watch as two men were seen transferring boxes onto cars in the car park of the building.

Suspecting that there were duty-unpaid cigarettes in the boxes, the officers moved in and detained the two men. A total of 3,450 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were uncovered from the boxes in the vehicles and on the ground near the vehicles. The duty-unpaid cigarettes and three vehicles were seized.

The two men were arrested at the scene while the third man, who had fled the scene, was arrested at the Woodlands Checkpoint later in the day.

Leads from the preliminary investigation led Singapore Customs officers to mount another operation the same morning at a self-storage facility in Woodlands Close, where they seized another 484 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes from a unit in the facility.

The total amount of duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) involved in these two operations amounted to about \$312,260 and \$23,100 respectively.

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 will be severely dealt with. They can be fined up to 40 times the amount of duty and GST evaded and/or jailed for up to six years.

Repeat offenders who are caught with more than two kilogrammes of tobacco products will also face mandatory imprisonment. Vehicles used in the commission of such offences are also liable to be forfeited.

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ANNEX



Cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes packed in brown boxes were found in the vehicles and on the ground near the vehicles.



Three vehicles and 3,450 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized in the car park of the commercial building in Toh Guan Road.



Singapore Customs officers followed up with another operation on the same day and seized another 484 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes from a unit of a self-storage facility in Woodlands Close.

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