



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

MEDIA RELEASE

26 September 2019

Singapore Customs seized more than 26,000 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in two consecutive days

Singapore Customs seized 26,714 cartons and 840 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes and arrested 13 men in five separate locations on 18 and 19 September 2019.

In the afternoon of 18 September 2019, Singapore Customs officers conducted checks on two Singapore-registered bonded trucks at the vicinity of Choa Chu Kang Avenue 2 and 3, and uncovered brown boxes containing duty-unpaid cigarettes in the two trucks. Three Malaysian men, aged between 31 and 36, were arrested for dealing with duty-unpaid cigarettes and 2,142 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized.

Later that evening, Singapore Customs officers raided a warehouse unit in Bukit Batok Crescent and detected four men retrieving duty-unpaid cigarettes from pallets of cartons boxes in the unit. The four men, one Malaysian and three Indonesians, aged between 20 and 40, were arrested and 12,513 cartons and 840 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized.

In the morning of 19 September 2019, Singapore Customs officers raided a warehouse unit in Gambas Crescent and arrested six Singaporean men, aged between 25 and 26, for dealing with duty-unpaid cigarettes. Two Singapore-registered bonded trucks and 10,631 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the two trucks, were seized.

On the same evening, Singapore Customs officers detected another Singapore-registered bonded truck at a carpark in Woodlands Street 13 containing 1,428 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes. The duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized.

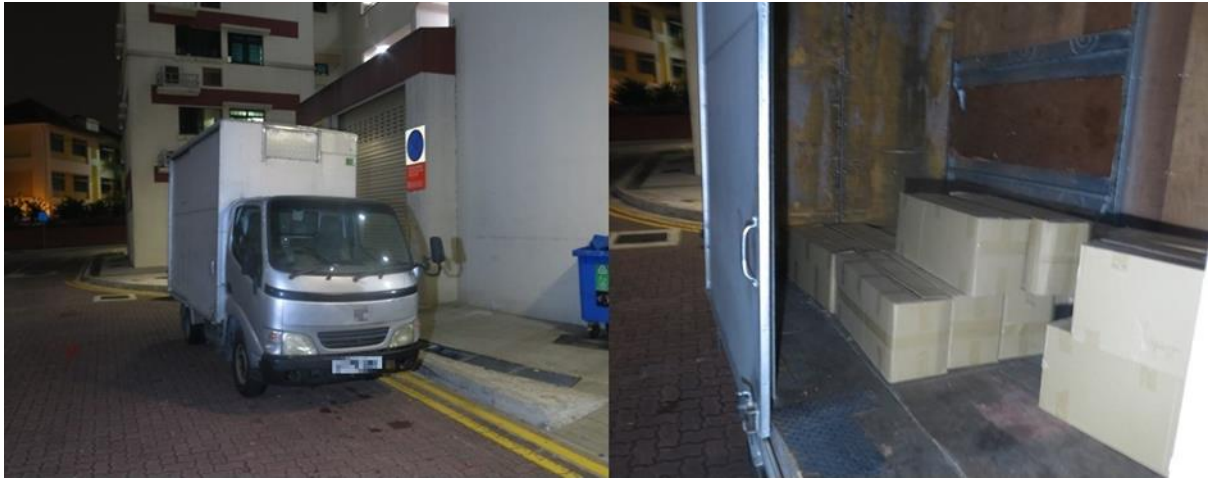
A total of 26,714 cartons and 840 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized in the two days. The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$2,389,280 and \$175,660 respectively. Of the 13 men arrested, eight had been charged in Court while investigations are ongoing for the remaining five men.

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 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 Customs duty or GST can call the Singapore Customs hotline on 1800-233-0000, email customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg or use Customs@SG mobile app (which can be downloaded from the Apple Store or Google Play) to report these illegal activities.

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ANNEX



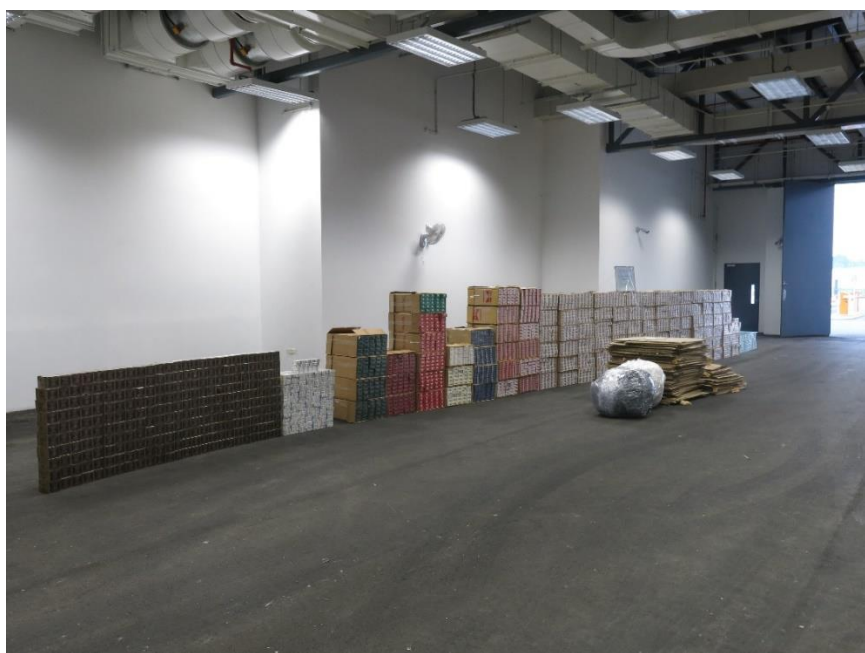
Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the trucks in Choa Chu Kang Ave 2 and 3



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the warehouse unit in Bukit Batok Crescent



Duty-unpaid cigarettes seized on 18 September 2019



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the trucks in Gambas Crescent



Duty-unpaid cigarettes uncovered in the truck in Woodlands Street 13

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