



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

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**23 March 2021**

### **Singapore Customs arrests two men and seizes more than 2,117 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes**

Singapore Customs arrested two men and seized over 2,117 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes during an operation at a multi-storey carpark in the vicinity of Choa Chu Kang Avenue 5 on 16 March 2021.

On the evening of 16 March, Singapore Customs officers observed the transfer of several boxes wrapped in black trash bags, from a Singapore-registered van to a Singapore-registered car parked beside it. The officers moved in to conduct checks on the vehicles and found 2,117 cartons and 126 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes in the black trash bags. Two Singaporean men, aged 33 and 38, were arrested.

The van and car, together with the 2,117 cartons and 126 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes and cash suspected to be criminal proceeds amounting to \$6,240, were seized in this operation. The duty and Goods and Services tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$250,780 and \$17,550 respectively. Investigations are ongoing.

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.

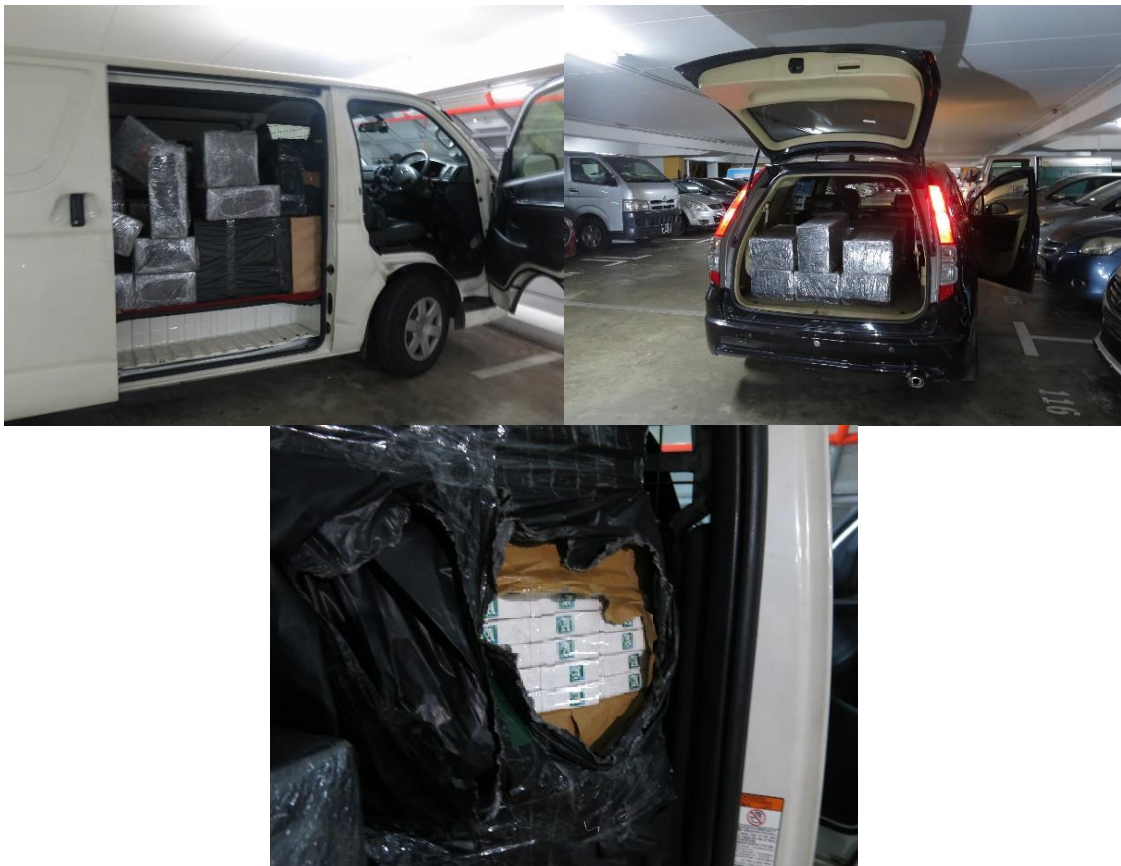
Members of public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of Customs duty or GST can call the Singapore Customs hotline on 1800-233-0000 or email [customs\\_intelligence@customs.gov.sg](mailto:customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg) to report these illegal activities.

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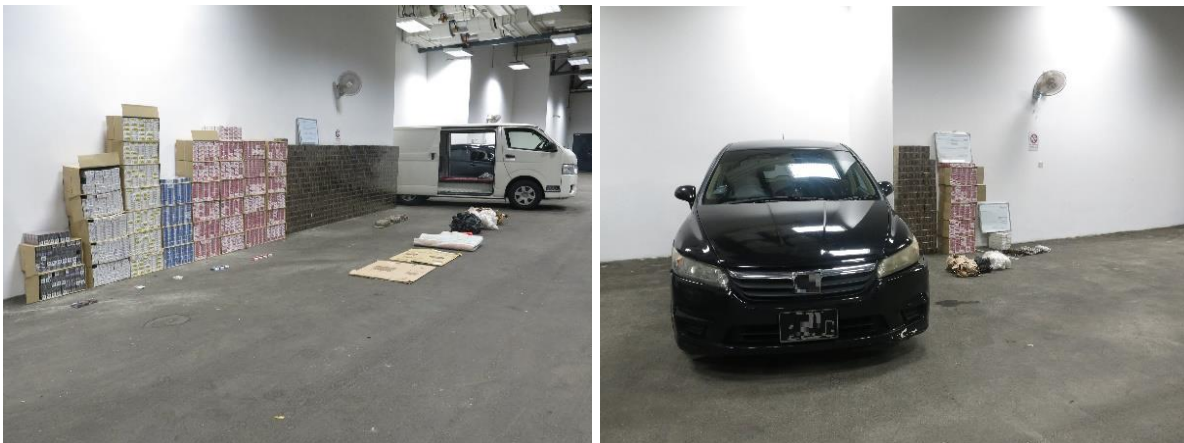
**Singapore Customs**

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## Photos



Duty-unpaid cigarettes wrapped in black trash bags which were transferred from the van to the car.



2,117 cartons and 126 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes seized during the operation.