



MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate

16 July 2024

FOUR MEN ARRESTED FOR EVADING MORE THAN \$400,000 IN DUTIES AND TAXES

Singapore, 16 July 2024 – On 11 July 2024, Singapore Customs conducted an operation at Gul Circle leading to the arrest of three Singaporean men, aged 33, 47 and 49, and a Malaysian man, aged 34, for duty and tax evasion.

2 During the operation, Customs officers observed two vans parked behind a lorry along Gul Circle, with four men transferring boxes from the lorry to the van behind it. Officers conducted checks and uncovered 480 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in the van, and another 3,488 cartons in the lorry and on the kerbside.

3 In total, 3,968 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized, along with the lorry and two vans. The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$430,019. Investigations are ongoing.

4 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 committing such offences are also subject to forfeiture.

5 Members of the public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of duty or GST can report it to Customs at <https://go.gov.sg/reportcustomsoffence>.

Annex A: Photos of the operation

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About Singapore Customs

Singapore Customs, a lead agency under the Ministry of Finance, protects revenue and facilitates trade. We make trade easy, fair and secure. We ensure compliance with customs regulations and collect taxes and duties on dutiable and taxable goods. We regulate the export of strategic goods and implement Singapore's commitments to some international trade regulations such as the United Nations Security Council Sanctions.

We work closely with other government agencies, industry partners, and international organisations in our mission and operations. With the use of data analytics, digitalisation of processes and various technologies, we continuously improve the efficiency and effectiveness of customs processes.

By proactively balancing the intricate requirements of trade facilitation, security and regulatory compliance, Singapore Customs strengthens Singapore's position as a global trade hub trusted by businesses operating in Singapore and foreign trading partners.

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Annex A



Duty-unpaid cigarettes were transferred from the lorry to the van parked behind it.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the van.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the lorry and on the kerbside.