



MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate

28 August 2024

TWO MEN ARRESTED FOR EVADING MORE THAN \$290,000 IN DUTIES AND TAXES

Singapore, 28 August 2024 – In a move to curb tax evasion, Singapore Customs successfully conducted an operation at Tuas View Square on 24 August 2024, resulting in a seizure of duty-unpaid cigarettes and two vehicles.

2 During the operation, Customs officers raided an industrial unit and found 2,701 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes, including some which were found on two lorries in the unit. Two male Bangladeshi nationals, aged 36 and 37, were arrested.

3 Investigations revealed both men were allegedly engaged by an unknown person to collect and repack duty-unpaid cigarettes in the industrial unit. One of the men was an employee of the company occupying the unit and he had allegedly abused his company's premises for the illicit activities.

4 All the duty-unpaid cigarettes, as well as the two lorries allegedly used in the transportation of the duty-unpaid cigarettes, were seized. The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$292,712. Court proceedings are ongoing.

5 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.

6 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 operations

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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.

To find out more, visit our website at www.customs.gov.sg

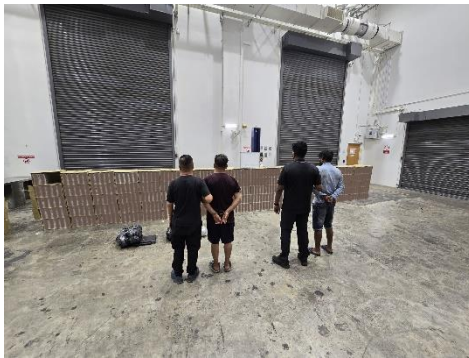
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Annex A



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the industrial unit at Tuas View Square.



The two men arrested and the duty-unpaid cigarettes seized.