



**SINGAPORE
CUSTOMS**

MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate

6 March 2025

SINGAPORE CUSTOMS FOILS REVENUE EVASION OF OVER \$380,000 AND ARRESTS THREE SUSPECTS

Singapore, 6 March 2025 – Singapore Customs (Customs) has successfully disrupted an attempt in distributing duty-unpaid cigarettes, seizing 3,600 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes and arresting three individuals. The enforcement actions carried out on 1 March 2025 at Upper Serangoon Road and Segar Road also resulted in the seizure of two vans and \$19,000 in suspected proceeds from the sales of the duty-unpaid cigarettes. The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$389,944.

2 As part of our ongoing efforts to combat illicit activities involving duty-unpaid goods, Customs officers conducted an operation at a carpark along Upper Serangoon Road, where they observed two men approaching two vans. Upon inspection, the officers discovered 1,800 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in each vehicle. The two men, both Malaysian nationals aged 36 and 45, were arrested on-site.

3 In a subsequent operation at Segar Road, a 37-year-old Singaporean man was arrested at his residence. Officers found the \$19,000 in cash - suspected to be proceeds from the sale of duty-unpaid cigarettes - stored in a safe. Preliminary investigations revealed that the two Malaysians allegedly found the job of delivering duty-unpaid cigarettes via social media, and they allegedly received instructions from the Singaporean. Investigations are ongoing.

4 Under the Customs Act and the GST Act, buying, selling, conveying, delivering, storing, keeping, possessing or dealing with duty-unpaid goods are serious offences. 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 and proceeds of sales of duty-unpaid cigarettes are also liable to be forfeited.

5 Singapore Customs remains steadfast in its efforts to detect and deter tax evasion. Members of public with information on smuggling activities or duty or GST evasion are encouraged to report it to Customs at <https://go.gov.sg/reportcustomsoffence>.

Annex A: Photographs of the operations

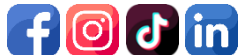
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About Singapore Customs

Singapore Customs protects revenue and facilitates trade for Singapore's economic growth while continuously striving to be a world-leading customs authority. As a partner of the Ministry of Finance, we ensure compliance with customs and tax regulations, safeguard the nation's financial interests, and combat illicit trade activities. We also enable seamless trade by simplifying customs processes, building global trade connectivity, and maintaining Singapore's position as a trusted global trading hub. Guided by our values of integrity, commitment, courage, responsiveness and teamwork, we strive for excellence with a professional and innovative team. Together, we ensure revenue and enable trade, fostering a thriving Singapore economy.

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

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Annex A



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the two vans.



Two of the men arrested and the duty-unpaid cigarettes seized.