



MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate

12 June 2024

FOUR MEN ARRESTED FOR EVADING ABOUT \$180,000 IN TAXES WITH MORE THAN 1,700 CARTONS OF DUTY-UNPAID CIGARETTES SEIZED

Singapore, 12 June 2024 – On 7 June 2024, Singapore Customs seized 1,740 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes during an operation at Tuas View Crescent. The operation led to the arrest of four Malaysian men, aged 27 to 42, who were involved in transferring the illicit goods between a lorry and a van.

2 The lorry driver allegedly transported duty-unpaid cigarettes hidden amongst a legitimate consignment from Malaysia into Singapore, while the van driver and two others were allegedly engaged to collect the duty-unpaid cigarettes. The total duty and GST evaded was about \$188,241. All four men were charged in court on 8 June 2024.

3 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.

4 Singapore Customs is committed to detect and deter tax evasion. Members of the public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of duty or GST can provide information 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



The lorry and van parked back-to-back along the roadside.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found amidst legitimate goods in the lorry.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the van.