



MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate

24 October 2023

TRIO CONVICTED OVER DUTY-UNPAID LIQUOR

Singapore, 24 October 2023 – A male Singaporean, Wang Benshi (王本土), 34, a female Singapore Permanent Resident, Yan Liping (颜莉平), 34, and a male Chinese national, Yan Bingzeng (颜丙增), 43, were fined by the State Courts on 18 October 2023 for dealing with duty-unpaid liquor. Wang Benshi was fined \$220,000, while both Yan Liping and Yan Bingzeng were fined \$203,000 each. Unable to pay the fine, Yan Bingzeng will be serving 53 days' imprisonment.

2 On 11 May 2023, Singapore Customs mounted an operation within the Woodlands Avenue 6 vicinity. Customs officers saw Yan Liping carrying two red plastic bags while her brother, Yan Bingzeng, was pushing two trolleys laden with boxes at the lift lobby of a residential block. The officers conducted checks and uncovered 54 bottles of duty-unpaid liquor in red plastic bags and boxes. Wang Benshi, Yan Liping's husband, subsequently arrived at the lift lobby and admitted that the duty-unpaid liquor belonged to him. A follow-up search at their residence led to the discovery of 205 more bottles of duty-unpaid liquor. Wang Benshi, Yan Liping and Yan Bingzeng were arrested.

3 Investigations revealed that since 2021, Wang Benshi had been purchasing duty-unpaid liquor for his father's consumption from a supplier via social media. In 2023, he took over his supplier's stock and sold the duty-unpaid liquor to others. He stored the duty-unpaid liquor in the house and engaged both Yan Liping and Yan Bingzeng to liaise with buyers on the sale and delivery of the duty-unpaid liquor. After customers placed their orders, Yan Liping would deliver the duty-unpaid liquor to the

customers at the void deck of her residence. Yan Bingzeng, meanwhile, would meet customers at various locations to pass them the duty-unpaid liquor.

4 A total of 259 bottles of duty-unpaid liquor were seized. The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$28,317.

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 20 times the amount of duty and GST evaded and/or jailed for up to two years.

6 Members of public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of duty or GST can call the Singapore Customs hotline on 1800-2330000 or email customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg to report these illegal activities.

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.

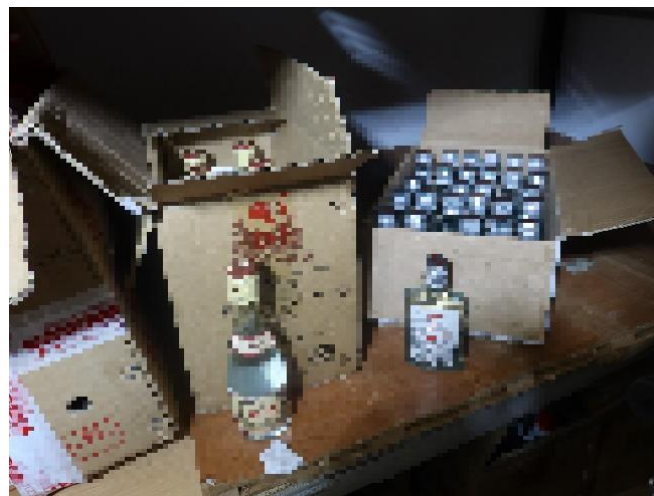
By proactively balancing the intricate requirements of trade facilitation, security and regulatory compliance, Singapore Customs strengthens Singapore's position as a global trade hub trusted by businesses operating in Singapore and foreign trading partners.

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ANNEX A



Duty-unpaid liquor found in red plastic bags and boxes at the lift lobby



Duty-unpaid liquor found in the residential unit