



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS 新加坡关税局 **KASTAM SINGAPURA** சிங்கப்பூர் சுங்கத்துறை

MEDIA RELEASE

1 July 2020

Singapore Customs arrests four men and seizes more than 4,000 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes

Singapore Customs arrested four Chinese nationals, aged between 28 and 39, and seized more than 4,000 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes during an operation in Tuas South Avenue 1 on 28 Jun 2020.

In the afternoon of 28 Jun 2020, Singapore Customs officers observed a man loitering outside a unit of an industrial building at Tuas South Avenue 1. Suspecting that the man was involved in illicit activities involving duty-unpaid cigarettes, officers conducted a check on him. When questioned by the officers, the man admitted to unpacking duty-unpaid cigarettes in the unit and was arrested.

Officers entered the unit and arrested another three men, who were retrieving duty-unpaid cigarettes from multiple cylindrical plastic containers and packing them into brown paper bags.

Investigations revealed that an unknown man had engaged one of the men to retrieve, pack and deliver the duty-unpaid cigarettes, who further engaged another three men to help with the retrieval and packing. Investigations are ongoing.

The operation resulted in the seizure of a total of 4,069 cartons and 110 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes. The duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$348,430 and \$28,210 respectively.

Buying, selling, conveying, delivering, storing, keeping, having in possession 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.

Members of public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of Customs duty or GST can call the Singapore Customs hotline on 1800-2330000, email customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg or use Customs@SG mobile app (which can be downloaded from the Apple Store or Google Play) to report these illegal activities.

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ANNEX





Duty-unpaid cigarettes concealed in multiple cylindrical plastic containers and brown paper bags.



4,069 cartons and 110 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized.

[Photos: Singapore Customs]