



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

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

1 Sep 2020

### **Singapore Customs arrests three men and seizes 2,768 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes**

Singapore Customs arrested three men, aged between 31 and 47, and seized 2,768 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes during operations mounted in the vicinities of Woodlands Circle and Simei Street 1 on 28 Aug 2020.

In the evening of 28 Aug 2020, Singapore Customs officers conducted a check on a Singapore-registered van in the vicinity of Woodlands Circle. 2,268 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were found packed in brown cardboard boxes inside the van. Two Singaporean men in the van were arrested.

Singapore Customs officers conducted a follow-up operation on a Singapore-registered van parked in the vicinity of Simei Street 1. Officers found 500 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in the van and the male Chinese national driver was arrested.

Investigations revealed that the two Singaporean men were engaged by an unknown man to rent a van and deliver duty-unpaid cigarettes to various locations. The Chinese national man was engaged by another unknown man to collect the duty-unpaid cigarettes from the two Singaporean men and to deliver them to customers in the second van.

The operations resulted in the seizure of a total of 2,768 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes. The duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$236,380 and \$19,130 respectively. The two vans were also seized.

Court proceedings against the three men are ongoing.

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. Vehicles used in the commission of such offences are also liable to be forfeited.

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](mailto: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.

**###**

## ANNEX



2,768 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes seized and three men arrested



Duty-unpaid cigarettes seized from van in Woodlands Circle





Duty-unpaid cigarettes seized from van in Simei Street 1