



**SINGAPORE
CUSTOMS**

MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate

17 June 2025

THREE MEN ARRESTED AND 7,500 CARTONS OF DUTY-UNPAID CIGARETTES SEIZED

Singapore, 17 June 2025 – Singapore Customs seized 7,500 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes and arrested three Malaysian men during an enforcement operation conducted at Gul Drive on 10 June 2025. The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to approximately \$812,384.

2 During the operation, Customs officers observed three men transferring brown boxes between two Malaysian-registered vehicles parked by the roadside. Officers moved in to conduct checks and found 7,400 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in a prime mover attached with a trailer, and 100 cartons in a multi-purpose vehicle (MPV). The three men, aged 40, 30 and 24, were arrested at the scene. Both vehicles and the duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized.

3 Investigations revealed that the two vehicles had entered Singapore separately. The 30-year-old suspect had allegedly driven the prime mover, with the duty-unpaid cigarettes concealed among boxes of coffee products, from Malaysia. The 24-year-old was allegedly assisting to transfer the duty-unpaid cigarettes to the MPV. The 40-year-old was allegedly tasked with delivering them to customers in Singapore. The three suspects are believed to have been recruited by unidentified individuals in Malaysia. Court proceedings 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 such offences are also subject to forfeiture.

5 Singapore Customs remains committed to enforcing strict compliance with customs regulations and protecting revenue. Members of public with information on smuggling activities or duty or GST evasion can report it to Customs at <https://go.gov.sg/reportcustomsoffence>.

Annex A: Photographs of the operation

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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



The prime mover and MPV seized during the operation.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the prime mover.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the MPV.