



**SINGAPORE  
CUSTOMS**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Immediate**

2 June 2026

### **EIGHT MEN ARRESTED AND OVER 26,000 PACKETS OF DUTY-UNPAID CIGARETTES SEIZED**

**Singapore, 2 June 2026** – Singapore Customs (“Customs”) conducted two enforcement operations on 14 May 2026, in the vicinity of Choa Chu Kang Street 52 and Tampines Avenue 9, resulting in the arrest of eight men and the seizure of 26,235 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes. The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$485,773.

2 The eight men – four Singaporeans and four Indonesian nationals aged between 33 and 49 – were arrested in connection with the case. Customs also seized a Singapore-registered car and \$38,325 in suspected proceeds from the sale of duty-unpaid cigarettes.

3 Acting on information received, Customs officers conducted checks at a residential unit in Choa Chu Kang, where they uncovered 21,992 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes concealed in cartons disguised as snack products. Some packets of the duty-unpaid cigarettes sealed in grey packaging had already been removed from the snack cartons.

4 Three Singaporeans and four Indonesian nationals were arrested during the operation. The duty-unpaid cigarettes and the suspected sales proceeds found within the unit were seized.

5 In a follow-up operation conducted on the same day in Tampines, Customs officers observed a Singaporean man unloading red plastic bags from a Singapore-registered car. Checks on the vehicle uncovered an additional 4,243 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes within the car. The man was arrested and both the duty-unpaid cigarettes and the vehicle were seized.

6 Court proceedings against all eight men are ongoing.

7 Under the Customs Act and the GST Act, buying, selling, conveying, delivering, storing, keeping, possessing or dealing in duty-unpaid cigarettes 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 committing such offences are also subject to forfeiture.

8 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: Photographs of the operations.

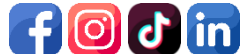
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#### **About Singapore Customs**

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](http://www.customs.gov.sg)

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**Annex**



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in a residential unit in Choa Chu Kang.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in a car in Tampines.



Eight men were arrested, and the duty-unpaid cigarettes as well as the car used to transport the illicit goods were seized.