



**SINGAPORE
CUSTOMS**

MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate

13 May 2026

SIX MEN ARRESTED AND 3,500 CARTONS OF DUTY-UNPAID CIGARETTES SEIZED

Singapore, 13 May 2026 – Singapore Customs (“Customs”) arrested six male Bangladeshi nationals, aged 25 to 42, in connection with a case involving duty-unpaid cigarettes. 3,500 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes, one locally registered van, and about 17g of controlled drugs were seized in an enforcement operation conducted on 30 April 2026 at Choa Chu Kang Avenue 1. The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$453,965.

2 Acting on information received, Customs officers arrived in the vicinity of Choa Chu Kang Avenue 1 to conduct checks on a public utilities room where they found duty-unpaid cigarettes concealed in and among packages labelled as dog food, as well as drug paraphernalia and sachets believed to contain about 17g of controlled drugs, including ‘Ice’ and cannabis. Five men who were present in the public utilities room were arrested. Based on further checks and questioning, Customs officers found a vehicle key on one of the men which led them to a van parked nearby. A total of 3,500 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized: 2,700 cartons in the public utilities room and 800 cartons in the van.

3 A sixth man, aged 29, was arrested near the location in connection with alleged duty-unpaid cigarette activities.

4 Investigations are ongoing for all six men. The suspected drug-related offences were referred to the Central Narcotics Bureau for further investigation.

5 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.

6 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 goods seized.

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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



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in a public utilities room of a multi-storey carpark.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in a van parked near the public utilities room of a multi-storey carpark.