



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY
PRESS RELEASE**

18 May 2009

**HSA SUSPENDS LICENCE OF RECALCITRANT TOBACCO RETAILER
Licence suspended for 6 months for repeated selling to the underaged**

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) has suspended the licence of a tobacco retailer, M/s Hub Seng Huat Newspapers Agency at 70 Woodlands Avenue 7, Admiralty MRT Station for 6 months from 16 May 2009 to 15 November 2009.

2 An employee was caught selling tobacco products to a person below the age of 18 on 20 March 2009 and was compounded for \$2,000. This is the 2nd time an employee of this outlet has been caught committing a similar offence.

3 As the employees of this retail outlet have repeatedly committed the offence of selling tobacco products to underage persons, HSA has suspended its licence for 6 months.

4 HSA reminds all tobacco retailers that it is an offence under the Smoking (Control of Advertisements and Sale of Tobacco) Act to sell tobacco products to persons below the age of 18. The offence is punishable with a maximum fine of up to \$5,000 for the first conviction and up to \$10,000 for the second or subsequent conviction. The tobacco retail licences are also liable for suspension or revocation should the licensees and/or their employees repeat the offence.

5 HSA will continue to enforce this prohibition stringently so as to discourage and prevent the illegal sale of tobacco products to underage youths.

6 Members of the public can view the List of Suspended Tobacco Retailers at: http://www.hsa.gov.sg/publish/hsaportal/en/health_products_regulation/tobacco.html.

7 HSA also encourages members of the public who have information on the illegal sale of tobacco products to call the hotline of the Tobacco Regulation Unit at Tel: 62138930 or 62138931 during office hours.

**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY
18 MAY 2009**

- **About the Health Sciences Authority (HSA)**

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) applies medical, pharmaceutical and scientific expertise through its three professional groups, Health Products Regulation, Blood Services, Applied Sciences, to protect and advance national health and safety. HSA is a multidisciplinary authority. It serves as the national regulator for health products, ensuring they are wisely regulated to meet standards of safety, quality and efficacy. It operates the national blood bank, Bloodbank@HSA, securing the nation's blood supply. It also applies specialised scientific, forensic, investigative and analytical capabilities in serving the administration of justice.

- **About HSA's Health Products Regulation Group**

The Health Products Regulation Group (HPRG) of HSA ensures that drugs, innovative therapeutics, medical devices and health-related products are wisely regulated and meet appropriate safety, quality and efficacy standards.