



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY
PRESS RELEASE
16 JANUARY 2017**

ONLINE PEDDLER NABBED FOR SELLING STOLEN CIGARETTES

The Health Sciences Authority has caught a 19-year-old male for illegally selling cigarettes without a tobacco licence through online platforms (refer to Annex A for photos of the products seized).

2 The Tobacco Regulation Branch had detected the illegal activity during one of its regular cyber surveillance checks. On 10 January 2017, HSA officers conducted enforcement operations and caught the seller who had advertised the sale of cigarettes on an online platform at the price of \$10 per packet. During their checks, eight packets of Singapore Duty Paid Cigarettes were found at the seller's residence. Preliminary investigations revealed that the seller and three of his friends had stolen 48 packets of cigarettes from a supermarket and tried to resell them over the Internet.

3 The suspect is currently assisting the Singapore Police Force and the Health Sciences Authority with investigations.

4 It is an offence under the Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) Act to import, distribute, sell or offer for sale, or have in possession for sale any tobacco products without the valid tobacco licences. Anyone caught selling tobacco products without a licence is liable, on conviction in Court, to a maximum fine of up to \$10,000.

5 Anyone convicted with the offence of Theft in Dwelling under Section 380 of the Penal Code, Chapter 224 shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to a fine.

6 HSA encourages members of the public who have information on the illegal sale of tobacco products to call the Tobacco Regulation Branch at Tel: 66842036 or 66842037 during office hours.

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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 and 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. As the national blood service, it is responsible for providing a safe and adequate blood supply. It also applies specialised scientific, forensic, investigative and analytical capabilities in serving the administration of justice. For more details, visit <http://www.hsa.gov.sg/>.

For more updates on public health and safety matters, follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/HSAsg.

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Photographs of the seized products



Photo of the cigarettes where they were hidden

