



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS 新加坡关税局 **KASTAM SINGAPURA** சிங்கப்பூர் கங்கத்துறை

MEDIA RELEASE

29 June 2020

Singapore Customs arrests six persons for involvement in duty-unpaid liquor activities

Six Chinese nationals, five males and a female aged between 27 and 43, were arrested in separate operations conducted from 16 to 23 Jun 2020 for their involvement in duty-unpaid liquor activities.

On 16 June 2020, Singapore Customs officers arrested a 27-year-old man in a HDB unit at Clementi Avenue 4 and seized 60 bottles of duty-unpaid liquor found in the unit. In a follow-up operation, officers uncovered and seized another 59 bottles of duty-unpaid liquor belonging to the same man at a warehouse in Toh Guan Road East.

On the next day, another 30-year-old man was arrested in a HDB unit at Ang Mo Kio Avenue 8 and a total of 382 bottles of duty-unpaid liquor found in the unit were seized by Singapore Customs officers.

On 19 June 2020, Singapore Customs officers arrested two more men, aged 36 and 43, and seized another 59 bottles of duty-unpaid liquor at a warehouse in Toh Guan Road East.

On 22 June 2020, Singapore Customs officers mounted another operation and arrested a 35-year-old woman after she accepted a consignment of goods that contained 198 bottles of duty-unpaid liquor in the vicinity of Fourth Chin Bee Road.

On 23 June 2020, the fifth man, aged 30, was arrested in the vicinity of Woodlands Drive 72 after he collected a consignment of goods containing 144 bottles of duty-unpaid liquor.

Investigations in these cases revealed that the six persons had imported the various shipments of duty-unpaid liquor under false descriptions as beverage, spices, cosmetics, sanitizer and soap using Less than Container Load (LCL) containers. LCL containers have multiple shipments belonging to different consignees packed in the same container, and logistic companies in Singapore would unstuff the containers for the shipments to be delivered or collected by the individual consignees.

A total of 902 bottles of duty-unpaid liquor were seized in the series of operations and the duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$61,400 and \$4,290 respectively. Court proceedings are ongoing against two men while investigations are ongoing for the remaining four persons.

“We appreciate the co-operation of logistics companies who have exercised due diligence in screening for illicit shipments. We would like to seek the help of logistic companies to continue to keep a look out for any suspicious consignments and alert the authorities to prevent their services from being used for illicit activities,” said Assistant Director-General (Intelligence & Investigation) Yeo Sew Meng [新加坡关税局助理局长(情报与调查)杨秀明].

Buying, selling, conveying, delivering, storing, keeping, having in possession or dealing with duty-unpaid goods are serious offences under the Customs Act and the GST Act. Offenders can be fined up to 40 times the amount of duty and GST evaded and/or jailed for up to six years.

Members of public with information on smuggling activities or evasion of Customs duty or GST can call the Singapore Customs hotline on 1800-2330000, email customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg or use Customs@SG mobile app (which can be downloaded from the Apple Store or Google Play) to report these illegal activities.

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ANNEX



119 bottles of duty-unpaid liquor were seized from the first man in his HDB unit at Clementi Avenue 4 and a warehouse in Toh Guan Road East.



382 bottles of duty-unpaid liquor were seized from a HDB unit at Ang Mo Kio Avenue 8 on 17 June 2020.



59 bottles of duty-unpaid liquor were seized from a warehouse at Toh Guan Road East on 19 June 2020.



198 bottles of duty-unpaid liquor were seized in the vicinity of Fourth Chin Bee Road on 22 June 2020.



144 bottles of duty-unpaid liquor were seized in the vicinity of Woodlands Drive 72 on 23 June 2020.

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