



**SINGAPORE
CUSTOMS**

MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate

27 November 2025

FOUR MEN ARRESTED AND 3,100 CARTONS OF DUTY-UNPAID CIGARETTES SEIZED

Singapore, 27 November 2025 – Singapore Customs (“Customs”) arrested four Malaysian men, aged between 20 and 39, and seized 3,100 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes and three vehicles in an enforcement operation conducted on 13 November 2025 at Pasir Laba heavy vehicle carpark. The total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) evaded amounted to about \$335,785.

2 During the operation, Customs officers conducted checks on a parked bowser and a nearby forested area, where duty-unpaid cigarettes from the bowser were allegedly being packed into carton boxes. A total of 3,100 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were found concealed within the bowser and in the forested area. Four Malaysian men, aged 20, 21, 30 and 39, were arrested.

3 Investigations revealed that the 30-year-old man was allegedly engaged to drive a prime mover with the bowser attached from Malaysia to Singapore, while the 39-year-old man was allegedly hired to deliver the duty-unpaid cigarettes using a truck. The remaining two men were allegedly engaged by the 39-year-old to act as lookouts, with the 21-year-old allegedly riding a motorcycle to scout the area to ensure the area was safe for the unloading of the duty-unpaid cigarettes.

4 Customs seized the duty-unpaid cigarettes and the vehicles involved, including the prime mover with the bowser, truck and motorcycle. Court proceedings are ongoing against all four men.

5 "The swift and decisive actions of our officers demonstrate Singapore Customs' commitment to detecting and deterring tax evasion. Through vigilant enforcement, we will pursue and prosecute without hesitation those who violate the law. We encourage the public to support our efforts by reporting any suspicious activities," said a Singapore Customs spokesperson.

6 Under the Customs Act and the GST Act, buying, selling, conveying, delivering, storing, keeping, possessing or dealing in duty-unpaid goods 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.

7 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 A: Photographs of the operation

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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 A



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in bowser at Pasir Laba heavy vehicle carpark.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in forested area near Pasir Laba heavy vehicle carpark.