



**SINGAPORE  
CUSTOMS**

## MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate

8 December 2025

### **SINGAPORE CUSTOMS SEIZES LARGEST INLAND HAUL OF CONTRABAND CIGARETTES**

**Singapore, 8 December 2025** – Amid the year-end holidays and festivities, our officers remain vigilant in detecting smuggling activities.

2 Singapore Customs (“Customs”) mounted two enforcement operations on 30 November and 1 December 2025 at Pandan Loop and Jurong Port Road. A total of 17,279 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes and a van were seized. This is the largest inland haul to date this year where the total duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) involved exceeded \$1.87 million. One male Singaporean and three male Indian nationals were arrested.

3 On 30 November 2025, Customs officers conducted an operation at an industrial building at Pandan Loop. They observed a Singapore-registered van reversing into a loading and unloading bay, and three men subsequently loading brown boxes into the vehicle’s cargo compartment. The officers checked and uncovered 2,400 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes in the van. Following further questioning, the men led officers to a unit in the industrial building, where another 3,195 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were found. The 27-year-old Singaporean man, who was driving the van, and the three Indian

nationals - aged 30, 36 and 39 - were arrested. The van and a total of 5,595 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized.

4 Based on information gathered, a follow-up operation was conducted on 1 December 2025 at a warehouse at Jurong Port Road. Customs officers found and seized another 11,684 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes stored on the premises.

5 Court proceedings are ongoing against all four men.

6 "This case underscores Singapore Customs' steadfast commitment to detecting and deterring tax evasion. With our robust and decisive enforcement, all offenders caught will be dealt with firmly and in accordance with the law. We also urge the public to support our efforts by reporting any suspicious activities," said a Singapore Customs spokesperson.

7 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.

8 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 operations

-END-

### **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](http://www.customs.gov.sg)

Follow Customs on:



## Annex A



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found in the van.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found at the industrial unit at Pandan Loop.



Duty-unpaid cigarettes found at the warehouse at Jurong Port Road.