

IREN Press Release

Inland Revenue Enforcement Network (IREN) Squad of Regional Tax Office (RTO), Sukkur, in a counter-evasion operation, has seized non duty / tax paid cigarettes (approximately 1,300,000 sticks) valuing around Rs. 4,500,000/- involving federal excise duty and sales tax of Rs. 2,090,000 /-. The detained cigarettes contain 57x cartons of Express brand and 70x cartons of Cricket brand.

As a part of ongoing crackdown against illicit cigarette trade country wide, RTO Sukkur has also intensified operation against businesses dealing in non-duty paid and counterfeit cigarettes to save national exchequer from revenue loss.

On 26th April, 2021 a credible information was received that non duty/ tax paid and counterfeit cigarettes are stored/ present in warehouses located at Rohri Bypass Sukkur. IREN Squad RTO, Sukkur, headed by Assistant Commissioner, IR, Muhammad Yaqoob raided the above mentioned premises around 4.30pm and found/ seized 127x cartons of Non duty / tax paid cigarettes. The detained cigarettes contain 57x cartons of Express brand and 70x cartons of Cricket brand.

The operation was supervised by Mr. Haider Ali Dharejo, CCIR, RTO Sukkur, and coordinated by Dr. Aslam Mari, CIR. The stock of cigarettes has been detained / seized and further investigations are underway. This action is in pursuance to directions of the honorable Prime Minister of Pakistan against illicit sale of non-duty/tax-paid and counterfeit cigarettes.

Dr. Muhammad Ashfaq Ahmed, the Member Inland Revenue, also apprised the IREN staff that from July 1, 2021, Track & Trace System would be rolled out to cover tobacco manufacturing across the country, and that AJK Government had approached Federal Board of Revenue to extend the scope of Track & Trace System to cigarette manufacturing units located inside AJK territory. The Member further stated that FBR was in the process of drafting new rules where-under cigarette brands registered with FBR could only be sold in Pakistani markets. It is expected that over the next few months implementation of Track & Trace System and its extension into AJK, coupled with IREN's valiant drive would help overcome the menace of counterfeit, illicit and non-tax paid cigarettes in the market.