

# Customs Dept foils attempt to smuggle in e-bikes worth RM400,000

**TEMERLOH:** A Klang Valley-based company thought it could outsmart the authorities by falsely declaring a large consignment of imported electric bicycles (e-bikes) as conventional bicycles.

However, Customs officers inspecting the shipment at North Port, Port Klang, Selangor, on Oct 9 uncovered 434 e-bikes worth about RM400,000 inside the container.

Pahang Customs director Mohd Asri Seman said the company had declared the imported items as bicycles, children's bicycles and racing bicycles, but none of

these items actually arrived at Malaysian ports.

"The inspection of the 40-ft container led to the discovery of e-bikes that were meant to be distributed across Malaysia.

"The e-bikes, fitted with 180-watt and 200-watt motors, are estimated to be worth around RM1,000 each.

"The company had falsely declared the items in Customs Form K1. We are investigating whether it had previously committed similar offences involving misleading declarations," he told reporters at the Temerloh Customs

Department office yesterday.

Asri said those importing e-bikes must obtain import permits or approval from the Investment, Trade and Industry Ministry. Investigations are ongoing into the company for allegedly importing uncustomed or prohibited goods.

Meanwhile, another inspection at North Port on the same day uncovered two containers concealing 41,600kg of rice, estimated to be worth RM832,000, with unpaid taxes of RM332,800.

"The rice was imported without a permit and falsely declared as

packets of flour. We found only 7,980kg of flour in both containers, along with 41,600kg of rice," said Asri.

He said rice was a prohibited import item under the Customs (Prohibition of Imports) Order 2023, requiring an import licence from the Padi and Rice Regulatory Division director-general and inspection and approval by the Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Services Department.

In a separate case on Oct 13, Asri said a 38-year-old foreigner was arrested for driving a lorry carrying smuggled cigarettes

worth more than half a million ringgit in Klang, Selangor.

"An inspection uncovered 113,920 packets containing 2.27 million sticks of white cigarettes of various brands, believed to have been brought in from China.

"The cigarettes are valued at RM182,272, with total taxes amounting to RM455,680, bringing the overall seizure value to an estimated RM637,952," he said.

He added that the cigarettes were believed to be destined for the local market. The driver is being investigated for dealing with prohibited goods.