



15 JUL, 2023

MACC NABS 7 CUSTOMS AGENTS

New Straits Times, Malaysia



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Customs' agents arrested over RM33m duty fraud

MACC sources say the 7 men conspired with car owners to submit false information in order to pay lower taxes.

» REPORT BY **FARAH SOLHI**
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LUXURY CAR DUTIES RING

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They are alleged to have been involved in a scheme which saw luxury car duties illegally reduced, with RM33m in losses

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THE Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has detained seven men alleged to have been involved in a scheme which saw luxury car duties illegally reduced, costing RM33 million in losses.

According to MACC sources, all seven are customs agents, aged between 30 and 60.

They were detained at the MACC Kedah office between 5pm and 10.30pm on Thursday night, when they went in to have their statements recorded.

A source said Alor Star magistrate Nurshahida Abdul Rahim allowed the commission's application to remand all the suspects for four days until July 17.

It is understood that investigations began after the Auditor General's Report in February revealed that millions in public funds were lost by various agencies due to negligence in com-

plying with the government's rules or procedures, as well as a lack of proper planning for programmes, projects and activities.

The report highlighted that the largest portion of losses was incurred by the Customs Department, with RM72.32 million in understated Customs duties in the duty-free islands of Langkawi and Labuan.

The source said all the detainees were believed to have conspired with vehicle owners who submitted documents containing false information to obtain a reduction in Customs duty assessments.

The MACC special operations division has also carried out an operation, raiding several business premises, government agency offices and residences around the Klang Valley and in Kedah, Johor, Perak and Sabah.

MACC senior director (special operations) Datuk Tan Kang Sai, who confirmed the arrests, said the seven were being investigated for submitting false claims under the MACC Act 2009.



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SUMMARIES

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