



02 NOV, 2024

Customs seize illicit cigarettes, booze worth over RM3 mln

Borneo Post (KK), Malaysia



Page 1 of 2

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KUCHING: The Royal Malaysian Customs Department have seized over RM3 million worth of smuggled cigarettes and alcoholic beverages, following a traffic stop at the Kuching-Samarahan Expressway on Oct 22.

Sarawak Customs director Norizan Yahya said a 10-tonne bonded lorry loaded with 3.4 million sticks of various brands of cigarettes and 2,376 litres of booze were confiscated, with all items estimated to be worth RM3,153,205, including duties and taxes.

"On Oct 22, 2024, at around 2pm, the Kuching Marine Unit was patrolling around Kuching when the lorry was spotted, suspected of carrying illegal goods.

"The team proceeded to follow the lorry and successfully intercepted it on the Kuching-Samarahan Expressway," Norizan said during a press

conference at the department's enforcement division store in Sejingkat Industrial Park, Jalan Bako here yesterday.

He said the modus operandi was by transporting the items in a refrigerated bonded lorry via a transit warehouse.

Norizan also said the lorry driver, a local man in his 40s, was detained to facilitate further investigation.

The case is being investigated under Section 135(1)(e) of the Customs Act 1967, which carries a fine up to RM500,000 or a jail

term up to five years, or both, upon conviction.

Norizan also encouraged the

public to report any suspected smuggling activities by contacting the department's

toll-free hotline 1-800-88-8855, or going the nearest Customs office.



Norizan shows the boxes of smuggled cigarettes and the lorry to reporters.



Norizan (centre) and his officers show the seized contrabands during the press conference. — Photos by Chimon Upon



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Page 2 of 2

SUMMARIES

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