

E-WASTE WORTH OVER RM2.5M SEIZED

8 containers falsely declared as copper concentrate were shipped from Canada, Spain and Croatia

AUSTIN CAMOENS
PORT KLANG
austin@nst.com.my

ATIP-OFF led Customs enforcement officers from Bentong, Pahang, to the North Port in Port Klang, where they foiled an attempt to smuggle more than RM2.15 million worth of electronic waste (e-waste) into the country.

Pahang Customs director Mohd Asri Seman said the raiding party seized eight, 12-metre containers, with illegally imported e-waste from Canada, Spain and Croatia.

He said initial inspections revealed that the consignments comprised e-waste suspected to have been imported without the required permit and falsely declared as copper concentrate.

Of the eight containers intercepted, five were shipped from Canada, two from Spain and one from Croatia.

"The case was spearheaded by Customs enforcement officers from Bentong following intelligence received from an informant, which prompted surveillance and coordinated enforcement action at the port.



Pahang Customs director Mohd Asri Seman (centre) showing samples of illegally imported electronic waste intercepted at the North Port in Port Klang. NSTP PIC BY RUWAIDA MD ZAIN

"The intelligence obtained by our enforcement personnel in Bentong led to the operation at North Port, Port Klang, where the containers were detained on Feb 3 at 11am with the assistance of Selangor Department of Environment (DoE) officers.

"We estimate the seized cargo to weigh about 186,737kg with a total value of RM2.15 million," he told a press conference yesterday.

He said the case was being investigated under Section 135(1)(a) of the Customs Act 1967 for importing prohibited goods contrary to existing restrictions.

If convicted, offenders may

face jail terms of between six months and five years, fines of between 10 and 20 times the value of the goods or between RM100,000 and RM500,000, or both.

Asri said Customs remained committed to cracking down on smuggling activities that undermine national revenue, and pose environmental and public health risks.

He also urged members of the public to channel information on smuggling activities to Customs via its toll-free hotline, 1-800-88-8855, assuring that the identity of informants would be kept confidential.