

# Eight containers of illegal e-waste worth RM2m seized

**PORT KLANG:** The Customs Department crippled an electronic waste (e-waste) smuggling syndicate with the seizure of eight containers in a raid at North Port on Feb 3.

Its Pahang director Mohd Asri Seman said the operation was carried out following intelligence gathered by the Bentong enforcement division in collaboration with the Selangor Department of Environment.

He said the 40ft containers had arrived from Canada (five), Spain (two) and Croatia (one).

"The seizure involved about 186,700kg of e-waste, with an estimated value of RM2 million. The shipment is believed to have been imported without a permit and falsely declared in the shipping documentation.

"The import of e-waste is categorised as a conditionally prohibited item and is only allowed under Item 54, Part I of the Third Schedule of the Customs (Prohibition on Imports) Order 2023, which requires prior approval from the director-general of the Department of Environment," he told a press conference at the CT1 Warehouse in North Port yesterday.

He said initial inspections revealed discrepancies between the declared items and the actual contents of the containers, raising suspicions of an attempt to smuggle e-waste through the country's main entry point.

Mohd Asri said the syndicate is believed to have used false declarations to bypass the import



Mohd Asri (centre) showing some of the seized e-waste during the press conference at North Port. - **BERNAMAPIC**

permit requirement by labelling the goods as copper alloy to evade scrutiny.

"This tactic was clearly intended to mislead the authorities and circumvent the prescribed import regulations.

"We view seriously any attempt to bring in e-waste, as it carries significant implications for the environment, public health and national security," he said.

The case is being investigated

under Section 135(1)(a) of the Customs Act 1967 for importing prohibited goods in contravention of a prohibition.

Mohd Asri also said the Customs Department would continue to intensify intelligence gathering and enforcement at all entry points nationwide to curb smuggling activities.

"We will strengthen inter-agency cooperation to ensure that conditionally prohibited goods such

as e-waste are strictly controlled in accordance with the law.

"The public are urged to assist in combating smuggling activities, especially involving cigarettes, liquor, firecrackers, drugs, vehicles and other contraband, and to refrain from engaging in such activities," he said.

Individuals with information on smuggling activities are encouraged to contact the Customs Toll-Free Line at 1-800-88-8855 or the nearest Customs office. - **Bernama**