

KPDNHEP cripple diesel smuggling syndicate in Bukit Mertajam

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BUKIT MERTA JAM, Oct 4 -- The Penang Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry (KPDNHEP) has smashed a syndicate attempting to smuggle 21,840 litres of subsidised diesel here today.

Its Seberang Perai Tengah (SPT) enforcement chief Ahmad Ahrazzuddin Ahmad Hamdan said an enforcement team raided a premises used to transfer and store the fuel at Jalan Juru here at 5.00 am.

He said they found the fuel from a truck being transferred to another tanker at the premises.

"During the raid, no one was at the scene and it is believed that they (the syndicate members) including the driver of the truck fled as soon as they became aware of our presence. Based on the documents found, the truck was supposed to supply the fuel elsewhere and not to the premises," he told reporters here.

He said preliminary checks found that the syndicate had been using the modus operandi of taking the diesel from the fuel depot and not sending it to the proper place as written in the delivery or order document.

Ahmad Ahrazzuddin said enforcers seized a tanker, two pumps, a fibreglass tank and diesel, worth an estimated RM113,000 for further investigations under the Control of Supplies Act 1961.

It is understood that the diesel was purchased at a subsidised price before reselling it at market price to certain parties.

He said KPDNHEP took the matter seriously and would intensify efforts to curb smuggling activities involving control items subsidised by the government.

-- BERNAMA