

MACC nabs four directors

Company heads held over misappropriation of subsidised oil

KUALA LUMPUR: Four company directors have been detained by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) for alleged involvement in a syndicate responsible for misappropriation of subsidised cooking oil supply quota.

MACC deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Seri Ahmad Khusairi Yahaya confirmed all four arrests.

"According to the MACC's rough calculation, the syndicate has been profiting on subsidy payments of RM21.6mil for three years and there

are nine companies controlled by this syndicate," he said in a statement yesterday.

All the suspects, aged between 30 and 41, were picked up in Selangor and Putrajaya on Tuesday.

Ahmad Khusairi said the MACC has also frozen 12 accounts belonging to individuals and companies totalling over RM25mil.

He also said a check with the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry (KPDNHEP) found that the syndicate was given a quota of 1,000 tonnes of oil per month.

"These companies were supposed to process and repack the cooking oil into 1kg packets and supply them to retailers and the public, especially the rural community.

"But what happened was the cooking oil, which was not repacked, was collected and exported out of the country.

"This leakage caused the supply of cooking oil to decline in the market," he added.

Ahmad Khusairi said in addition to doubling profits by selling them overseas, these companies also

demanding subsidy payments from the government for the packaging and supply of the so-called cooking oil.

"In just three years, a sum of RM21.6mil was claimed and embezzled," he added.

All the suspects were brought to the Putrajaya Magistrate's Court yesterday for remand application under Section 117 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

He said the case is being investigated under Section 18 of the MAAC Act 2009. — Bernama

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