

More raids on premises with imported pork products

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KUALA LUMPUR: More raids are expected to take place at premises with imported pork products, including suckling pig, following the discovery of the African Swine Fever (ASF) virus DNA in imported canned luncheon meat in Sarawak, Veterinary Services Department

(DVS) director-general. Datuk Dr Quaza Nizamuddin Hassan Nizam said a task force was formed by the Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Ministry to inspect and police the entry of these products.

He said three inspections were conducted yesterday, adding that the raids were carried out after intelligence gathering.

Dr Quaza said the raids were on a

company that imports and distributes canned products, and two restaurants which serve suckling pig with 60 boxes of canned food products confiscated so far.

Twenty personnel were involved in the operation comprising officers from the Customs Department, Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Services (Maqis), Health Ministry's Food Safety and Quality

Division, and Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry.

"This is just the start. We want to create an awareness that pork-related products from banned countries must not be imported. The next round, we will take legal action," he said yesterday.

He noted that as there were a lot of agencies involved in a raid, it wanted to get the approval from all

agencies before conducting one. "We have planned to do another operation next week, perhaps at least once a week," he said.

Dr Quaza said yesterday's inspection was to examine the conditions at the distributor or seller's premises to deter the selling or to recall pork-based products or suckling pig from banned exporting countries such as China and Vietnam.

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