

PRESS RELEASE

ROYAL CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT

MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY

SIX CASES OF ARREST FOR SALE AND POSSESSION OF CUSTOMS PROHIBITED GOODS IN MUKIM GADONG, MUKIM SENKURONG, KAMPONG LUGU, KAMPONG BUKIT BERUANG AND BRUNEI RIVER

1. The Royal Customs and Excise Department (RCED) through Law Enforcement Division had executed six operations on 14th, 15th, and 20th November. The movement operation are based on information received from the public regarding the selling and smuggling of goods prohibited by Customs.
2. The first operation is held on Sunday, 14th November at parking area Low San Building, Jalan Batu Besurat, RCED successfully apprehended 2 local men, aged 27 and 32 years old which were believed to possess prohibited items by Customs which were 18 cartons, 12 packets and 21 sticks of cigarettes. One of the detainees worked as a security guard at one of the security guard companies.
3. On the same day, the second operation is held at the parking space of Al Barakah Complex building where RCED successfully apprehended 2 local men, aged 23 and 29 years old which were believed to possess prohibited items by Customs which were 111 cartons, seven packets and 17 sticks of cigarettes as well as a bottle of alcohol; car and cash amounting to BND\$1,385.00 were found which was believed to be the proceeds from the sale of the contraband items.

4. On Monday, 15th November 2021, the third operation is held at RPN Kampong Lugu where RCED successfully apprehended 2 local men and 2 local women, aged between 32 and 41 years old, which were believed to possess prohibited items by Customs which were six cartons and 10 packets of cigarettes, one bottle of alcohol, 889 various types of vapes, 236 bottles of vape juices as well as 259 pieces of several vaping accessories, and other items such as cosmetics, beauty and health products and food items believed to have been smuggled into the country.
5. Meanwhile, fourth, fifth and sixth operation was held on Saturday, 20th November 2021. The fourth operation was a raid on a house at RPN Kampong Bukit Beruang where RCED successfully apprehended a foreign man aged 38 years old which was believed to possess prohibited items by Customs which were 9 cartons and 17 packets of cigarettes of various brands.
6. The fifth operation is an inspection at a staff house in Kampong Menglait, Gadong where RCED successfully apprehended 5 foreign men aged between 22 and 46 years old which was believed to possess prohibited items by Customs which were 94 cartons, 22 packets and 51 sticks of cigarettes; as well as cash amounting to BND\$1,663.00 which was believed to be the proceeds from the sale of the contraband items.
7. Then, the sixth operation was held at Brunei River where RCED had successfully apprehended a Malaysian man which was believed to possess prohibited items by Customs which were 1800 cartons of cigarettes. RCED also confiscated a 23-foot long boat along with a 150hp engine.

8. All contraband items were confiscated and apprehended individuals were taken to the RCED Law Enforcement Division for further investigation.
9. RCED would like to remind the public to always abide the national law and refrain from engaging in smuggling activities or bringing in and out items that are prohibited or without permission from the relevant agencies. Possessing contrabands items by Customs is an offense under Section 146, Excise Order 2006.
10. RCED would also like to thank the public who have given their cooperation by channelling information related to activities that violate the laws and regulations enforced by RCED. The public is welcome to share information related to any smuggling of Customs prohibited goods or any activity that violates Customs legislation by contacting RCED at the RCED main line: 8714422/8721422 or visiting the nearest Customs office. RCED also guarantees that the identity of each informant is kept confidential.

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