

Transporting smuggled beer lands man with prison time, RM500 fine

MIRI: The Magistrates' Court here sentenced a man to seven-day jail and fined him RM500, in default another seven-day jail, for possessing 648 cans of duty-not-paid beer.

Kelly Balang Barauk, 47, from Marudi pleaded guilty before Magistrate Ashok Linggam to a charge under Section 37(1) of the Minor Offences Ordinance 1958 (Sarawak), which carries up to three months' imprisonment and

a fine of RM500, upon conviction.

He committed the offence by the roadside along Jalan Murni 1, Permyjaya here at about 4.50pm on Sept 22, 2026.

According to the facts of the case, Kelly was driving a pickup truck when he was stopped for inspection by Marine Police personnel on suspicion of transporting illicit alcoholic beverages.

During initial questioning,

he claimed he had been paid to transport the goods to a location in Tudan using a vehicle borrowed from a friend, and was unaware the items were not duty-paid.

He was arrested for failing to provide a reasonable explanation for the goods, which were seized as exhibits.

Deputy public prosecutor Mohammad Syafiq Samry prosecuted the case, while Kelly was not represented by counsel.