

Indonesian fined RM10,000 for unlicensed possession of cooking oil

KUCHING: An Indonesian man was fined RM10,000 in default six months in jail after pleading guilty in the Sessions Court here yesterday to possessing 68kg of cooking oil without a licence.

Ruslan Abdul Malik, 55, entered the plea after the charge under Section 21 of the Control of Supplies Act 1961, punishable under Section 22(1) of the same Act, was read to him before Judge Saiful Bahari Adzmi.

The Section provides for a fine not exceeding RM1 million or imprisonment not exceeding three years, or both, upon conviction. For each subsequent offence, conviction carries a maximum fine of RM3 million or up to five years in jail, or both.

Ruslan committed the offence at a border control post along the Malaysia-Indonesia border in Sematan, Lundu at 7.40am on Jan 31, 2025.

Based on the facts of the case, a General Operations Force team intercepted a motorcycle on a road leading to the control post, approximately 100 metres from the border.

Ruslan—the motorcyclist—was detained after he was found in possession of 68kg of cooking oil, which is a controlled item under the Control of Supplies Act 1961.

A police report was filed and the case was handed over to the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Cost of Living (KPDN) for further investigation.

Based on verification and records from KPDN, no licence or permit for controlled goods had been issued to the accused.

During mitigation, the accused told the court that he was transporting the cooking oil to Indonesia for a feast.

He also informed that his wife is a Malaysian, and that he suffers from heart disease.

Meanwhile, the court ordered for the disposal of the seized cooking oil, and for the motorcycle to be forfeited to the government after the lapse of the appeal period.

Deputy public prosecutor Iezzah Iburdanisha Ibrahim handled the prosecution, while Ruslan was unrepresented by legal counsel.