AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 48
RUANGAN : SETEMPAT

Ops Outlet kastam lebih agresif

■ JKDM bekerjasama dengan agensi penguat kuasa lain tahan peruncit jual rokok seludup

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Ops Outlet yang dijalankan Jabatan Kastam Diraja Malaysia (JKDM) bagi memerangi penjualan rokok seludup di seluruh negara diteruskan dengan lebih agresif.

Kali ini, JKDM bekerjasama dengan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM), Kementerian Perdagangan Dalam Negeri, Koperasi dan Kepenggunaan(KPDNKK) serta Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM) melalui Ops Puntung di sekitar Pudu.

Dalam operasi itu, JKDM menahan enam peruncit kerana menjual rokok seludup.

Timbalan Ketua Pengarah KKM, Datuk Dr Lokman Hakim Sulaiman berkata, operasi pertama kali diadakan dengan kerjasama pelbagai agensi penguatkuasaan itu bertujuan memerangi rokok seludup kerana pihaknya mendapati penjualan rokok haram berkenaan sudah meluas di Malaysia dan ia perlu dihentikan.

Katanya, operasi sama akan diperluaskan ke seluruh negara dalam tempoh terdekat.

"Dalam operasi itu, 46 notis kompaun berjumlah RM12,250 dikeluarkan ke atas 46 individu kerana merokok di kawasan bebas asap rokok," katanya.

Sementara itu, dalam Ops Outlet kelmarin dan hari ini di beberapa negeri seperti Perlis, Kelantan, Pulau Pinang, Negeri Sembilan dan Melaka, enam peniaga runcit ditahan kerana didapati menjual rokok seludup.

Malah, dalam ops sama, JKDM turut menyita sebuah kereta milik seorang peniaga yang didapati terbabit dalam penjualan rokok seludup.

Dalam serbuan kelmarin, seorang peniaga yang menjalankan perniagaan kedai runcit di Jalan Kampung Bakau, Kangar, Perlis ditahan manakala beberapa kotak rokok seludup turut dirampas.

Bagi operasi semalam pula, seramai lima lagi peniaga runcit ditahan atas kesalahan sama iaitu di Jalan Sultan Zainab, Kota Bharu, Blok Desa Cempaka Nilai, Jalan Padang Besar Kangar, Jalan Telaga Air, Bagan Luar dan Jalan Belakang Telekom, Butterworth Pulau Pinang serta di Jalan SJ 2, Taman Semabok Jaya, Taman Semabok Jaya, Melaka.

Kebanyakan rokok seludup yang dirampas adalah John Putih dan Hitam, Gudang Garam, Canyon, U2 dan Era.

Mengikut Seksyen 135(1)(d) Akta Kastam 1967, mereka yang didapati menjual, menyimpan atau memiliki rokok seludup boleh didenda 10 kali ganda nilai barang dan penjara maksimum tiga tahun atau kedua-duanya sekali jika sabit kesalahan.

Sejak Ops Outlet dilancarkan bermula 5 Mac lalu, 4,317 premis runcit diserbu JKDM dan 1,444 daripadanya didapati menjual rokok dilarang pengimportan.

Berikutan itu, seramai 952 peniaga runcit ditahan, 190 juta batang rokok turut dirampas, selain 455 peniaga sudah pun didakwa di mahkamah serta menerima hukuman masing-masing.

AKHBAR : THE NEW STRAITS TIMES
MUKA SURAT : 18
RUANGAN : LETTERS

MENTAL HEALTH

Do more to promote mental well-being

MALAYSIANS need to pay more attention to their mental health. A study conducted by the Health Ministry found that one out of four people suffer from some kind of mental health problem.

Stress and pressure caused by an abnormal demands on our ability to adapt to changes in our family, school and work life can result in physical, mental and emotional problems.

Mental health problems in people manifests itself in various psychological and emotional breakdowns such as abusive and aggressive behaviour, suicidal tendencies and running amok.

Mental healthcare promotion campaigns should be given serious consideration by the government and relevant authorities.

This is because there has been an increase in reports of severe mental health problems.

The pressure-cooker lifestyle has led to a plethora of illnesses, both physical and mental. There are many walking time bombs on our roads, in our streets, in schools, in offices and in our homes.

> **Stress and pressure caused by abnormal demands on our ability** to adapt to changes in our family, school and work life can result in physical, mental and emotional problems.

Many are like normal people but have abusive behavioural tendencies during moments of stress and depression.

The woman passenger who stabbed a bus driver several times because the driver did not stop is a clear ramification of severe mental health problems.

The woman wanted to get down at an undesignated bus stop, and when the driver did not stop, it infuriated her pent-up feelings.

The knife punctured the main vein on the driver's right leg and he may lose his leg.

Why was the woman carrying a knife in the first place?

The case where a van driver was killed after accidentally triggering a "ballpen gun" himself is baffling.

The miniature weapon, which resembled a ballpen, exploded while he was holding it. He had on him a box containing tiny bullets.

It is mystifying how he got the gun and why he had it in his possession.

The recent explosion at a Bukit Bintang nightclub, which killed a driver and injured 12 others is also scary and puzzling.

And finally, the dozens of our youth who have purportedly joined the Islamic State (IS) militants in Syria and Iraq.

We live in dangerous times with many "sick" people in our midst. Many are walking time bombs.

Samuel Yesulah, Seremban, Negri Sembilan