

JABATAN PERKHIDMATAN VETERINAR MALAYSIA

LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA

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DISEDIAKAN OLEH:

**SEKSYEN KOMUNIKASI KORPORAT
JABATAN PERKHIDMATAN VETERINAR MALAYSIA**



Ada pegawai
kanan agensi
sempadan 'kebal',
lepaskan kontena
daging sejuk
beku seludup

Muka 8

Isu kartel daging import

Kelompangan prosedur operasi dimanipulasi

Pegawai kanan agensi dipercayai ada 'imuniti' punca terbabit rasuah

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Kuala Lumpur: Kelompangan prosedur operasi termasuk terlalu banyak kuasa undang-undang membabitkan sebuah agensi kerajaan di pintu masuk negara, dipercayai antara punca kegiatan penyeludupan khususnya daging import yang diragui status halal masih berlaku.

Sumber berkata, kuasa diberikan undang-undang itu menyebabkan ia dipergunakan pegawai kanan agensi terbabit dalam keputusan berkaitan kemasukan kontena, sekali gus berpotensi menyumbang kepada amalan rasuah di sempadan negara.

Malah, sumber itu berkata, kelompangan berkenaan dimanipulasi oleh syarikat kartel pengimport daging sejuk beku menyeludup bekalan yang diragui status halal ke negara ini.

"Kuasa pegawai kanan agensi yang dipercayai ada 'imuniti' dan 'kekuatan' untuk melanggar prosedur sedia ada atas beberapa justifikasi sebagaimana yang dinyatakan dalam surat kelonggaran syarat itu.

"Kerjasama antara syarikat kartel dan pegawai kanan agensi

terbabit dipercayai membolehkan kontena dilepaskan masuk ke negara ini meskipun bekalan tidak menepati piawaian," kata sumber itu kepada BH.

Sumber berkata, menggunakan 'kelebihan' kuasa undang-undang itu, pegawai kanan terbabit mengeluarkan notis kelonggaran keperluan permit import untuk produk pertanian secara *transshipment* di semua pelabuhan, kecuali Sabah dan Sarawak.

Sehingga ini, isu kelompangan ini sudah menarik perhatian Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM) dengan Timbalan Ketua Pesuruhjaya (Pencegahan), Datuk Shamsun Baharin Mohd Jamil, mengesahkan pihaknya sedang meneliti perkara itu sebelum membuat syor kepada kerajaan.

Shamsun Baharin berkata, pe-



Status daging sejuk beku import terus jadi perhatian pihak berkuasa.

(Foto hiasan)

nelitan itu termasuk penyiasatan terhadap aspek undang-undang dan enakmen yang diguna pakai, proses kerja serta garis panduan sebelum mengambil tindakan susulan.

Katanya, jika kelompangan yang ada berisiko menyebabkan salah guna kuasa, pihaknya akan memberi syor kepada agensi atau kementerian terbabit untuk mengehadkan kuasa pegawai termasuk melalui pindaan undang-undang.

"Jika kelompangan yang ada itu menyebabkan kuasa pegawai terbabit terlalu luas dan membuka

ruang untuk berlaku penyelewengan kita akan memberi cadangan untuk tutup kelompangan itu," katanya.

Sementara itu, sumber berkenaan menambah satu daripada lima kelonggaran syarat kemasukan yang diberikan ialah *transshipment* membabitkan *full container load* (FCL) sahaja iaitu satu kontena penuh yang dimiliki oleh seorang pengirim di mana semua barang dalam kontena berkenaan tidak bercampur dengan barang orang lain.

Sumber berkata, kelonggaran itu boleh menjadi punca kepada kemasukan barang, termasuk produk sejuk beku yang diragui ke negara ini.

"Jadi sejak surat itu dikeluarkan, bolehlah barang yang dinyatakan dibuat *transshipment* asalkan menepati justifikasi (FCL) yang dinyatakan," katanya.

Kelonggaran itu pula dipercayai ada yang dilakukan atas permintaan pemain industri, sekali gus membuka peluang kepada peralihan rasuah.

Sumber berkata, tidak dinyatakan juga sama ada kontena *transshipment* yang masuk contohnya ke pelabuhan A mesti dieksport melalui pelabuhan sama.

"Ia sekali gus berupaya memberi ruang di mana kontena yang turun di pelabuhan A akan di-

pindahkan ke pelabuhan lain dengan menggunakan borang Kastam No 8 (K8) tanpa dinyatakan keperluan untuk diperiksa serta mendapat kelulusan pegawai agensi berkenaan," katanya.

Sumber itu juga memberi contoh di mana dalam sebuah agensi penguatkuasaan di Zon Bebas Pelabuhan Klang (PKFZ) menunjukkan adanya ruang membawa keluar bekalan sebelum ia dibawa ke gudang dan di pek semula untuk pasaran tempatan.

Difahamkan, fungsi zon perdagangan bebas sepatutnya hanya menjadi transit kepada barang dari negara luar untuk dibawa ke negara ketiga, tidak boleh dibawa keluar ke mana-mana destinasi dalam negara.

BH sebelum ini mendedahkan kegiatan kartel membawa daging sejuk beku dipercayai 'membeli' beberapa kakitangan kerajaan termasuk pegawai kanan agensi tertentu bagi melepasi pintu masuk negara.

SPRM setakat ini sudah menahan lapan individu sejak 4 Januari lalu bagi membantu siasatan berhubung isu kartel daging sejuk beku.

Dilaporkan 27 saksi sudah dipanggil dalam siasatan kes berkenaan terdiri daripada pekerja syarikat, ejen pengimport serta pegawai kerajaan.



Keratan akhbar BH 21 Disember lalu.



MEAT GAMBIT

A SENIOR official in an agency responsible for monitoring the nation's entry points exploited a loophole in the govt system to facilitate the movement of uncertified meat into the country by meat cartel companies, and the repackaging of meat with fake halal logos.

MEAT IMPORT SCANDAL

MEAT CARTELS 'EXPLOITING LOOPHOLES IN THE SYSTEM'

Flaw traced to senior officer of an agency tasked with monitoring entry points

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MEAT cartels have taken advantage of loopholes in the current system for meat imports, leading to corrupt practices, including false claims, smuggling of non-certified meat, and repackaging of meat with fake halal logos, sources said.

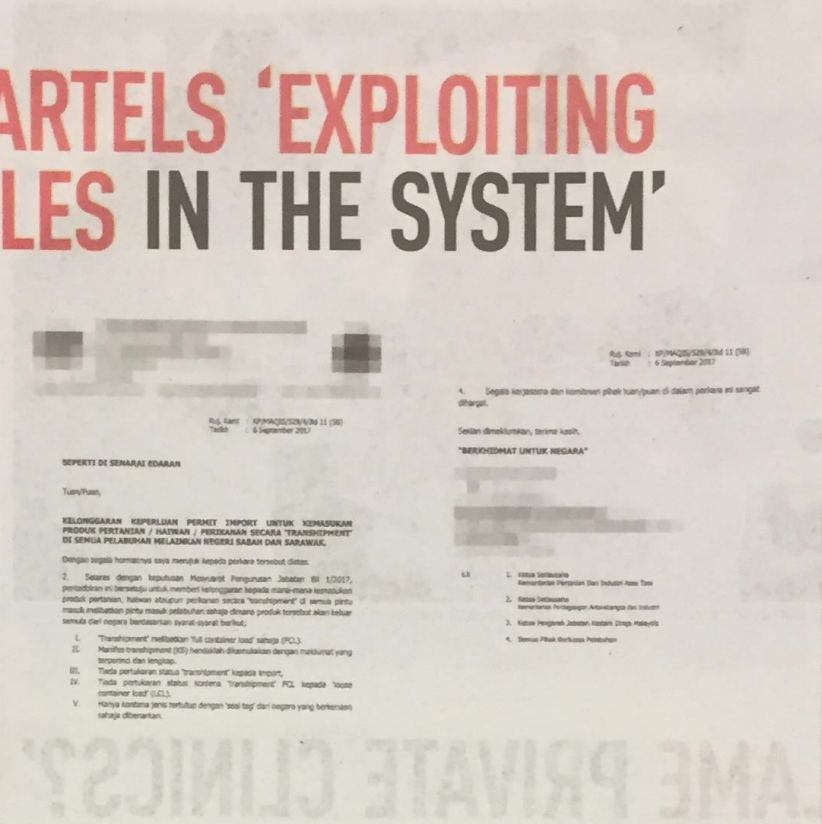
The *New Straits Times* has learnt that this major flaw had been traced to a senior officer in one of the agencies responsible for monitoring the nation's entry points and had the authority to allow containers with the frozen beef supply to enter the country. Some importing companies had taken advantage of this fact to bring uncertified meat into the country with little or any obstacles.

The senior officer would comply with requests from the cartel companies, ensuring that their containers could enter and leave the ports with all the necessary procedures adhered to, at least on paper. Evidence sighted by NST showed direct communication between meat cartel companies and the senior officer when they apparently faced problems involving their shipments at entry points.

"For instance, if the meat in the containers did not fulfil the requirements, officers on the ground would inspect and seize it. The meat cartel companies importing it would be notified that their items would not be allowed to leave the port.

"The companies will send an email to the senior officer, and appeal to allow the containers to be released despite not fulfilling the permit requirements, such as health certifications and so on.

"The senior officer will then forward the email to the state director (in the state) where the containers were seized, asking for the items to be allowed to leave the port," said a source.



A circular on the relaxation of import permit requirements for agricultural products brought into the country via transshipment

The source also revealed that the senior officer had issued a circular to ports on the relaxation of import permit requirements for agricultural products brought into the country via 'transshipment', except for Sabah and Sarawak.

Among the relaxed conditions were transshipment only for full container load, no change of "transshipment" status to import, no change of full container load to loose container load status, and only for containers with sealed tags from countries of origin. The source explained that the notice was meant to override the existing procedures for transshipment.

"So from the particular date the notice was issued, such transshipment activities were allowed."

The notice did not state that the containers with uncertified frozen meat, which should be exported to another country, are also required to leave from the same port where they entered. This leaves the door open for the containers being dropped in one port to then be transferred to another port using the Customs K8 Form. The source said the notice also did not state whether the items should be checked and cer-

tified when it was being transferred from one port to another port.

Due to this loophole, the agency could blame other agencies as being responsible for cases where such transactions are stopped by enforcement authorities. The source said cases where transshipment containers left free trade zones should not have happened in the first place. The free trade zones should serve as a transit point for transshipment activities for such meat containers to be re-exported back to another country.

"The raids at the Port Klang Free Zone (PKFZ) show that there are 'gaps' which allow such containers to leave the port and are brought to warehouses for repacking with the uncertified halal logo and sold to the local market," said the source.

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Deputy Chief Commissioner (Prevention) Datuk Shamsun Baharin Mohd Jamil, when contacted, said the agency would look into the loopholes from all aspects.

These, he said, included investigations on legal aspects and enforcement used, work process and guidelines before action was taken.

He gave the assurance that if there were loopholes that could potentially result in abuse of power, MACC would provide recommendations to the respective agencies or the ministry to limit power, including amending laws.

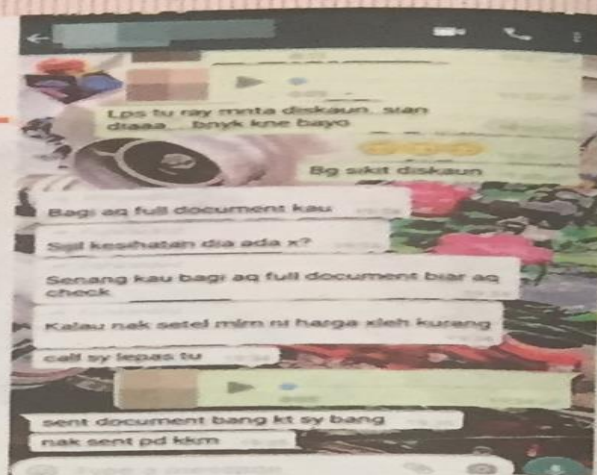
NST front-paged a report last month on a meat cartel, which had been in operation for more than 40 years.

Senior officers from no fewer than four government agencies were believed to be working hand in glove with the cartel specialising in bringing non-certified meat into Malaysia and passing it off as halal-certified products.

The frozen meat imported by the cartel from non-certified countries is not limited to beef, but includes horse and kangaroo meat.

These items would, upon arrival in Malaysia, be mixed with beef in warehouses nationwide run by the cartel before being sold to unknowing suppliers.

Investigations by the MACC on the meat cartel case recently gathered pace with the arrests of 11 people so far, including five Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Services Department (Maqis) officers, a delivery agent, and the directors and employees of two importing companies.



The WhatsApp messages between an agent and government officer as revealed by a source to NST.

Agents used to transact with govt officers, claims source

KUALA LUMPUR: Meat cartel companies used agents to deal with government officers stationed at entry points to let containers with uncertified frozen beef exit the ports.

A source provided the *New Straits Times* with several screenshots of WhatsApp messages between an agent and an officer on their transactions to turn a blind eye to allow meat containers to leave the ports without issues. The agents, who also act as "runners" for the meat cartel companies, will even negotiate "discounts" for the containers to exit the ports.

The officer would then seek "advice" from his superior, who would then order the officers to undertake specific tasks to facilitate the illicit transaction. The superior officer would then seek documents on the meat containers together with necessary health certificates.

"If want to settle tonight, no discounts (*kalau nak 'settle' malam ini, harga tak boleh kurang*)," said the superior before the message is forwarded to the runner by the officer.

The documents would be obtained early so that the containers may be allowed to leave without any hassle.

Through the exchange of messages, it was understood that the documents would also be submitted to the Health Ministry in a move to speed up the release of the meat supply containers.

The source, who revealed the WhatsApp messages, said such a procedure was considered a "norm" among the meat cartels and the government officers.

"They will deal with the officers discretely," said the source.