



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.