

SYNDICATE

7 HELD OVER SALE OF REVENUE STAMPS, IMMIGRATION STICKERS

Sale of items during 3-year spree led to loss of RM15m in govt revenue

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THE Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) detained seven syndicate members involved in the sale of government revenue stamps and foreign workers' Temporary Working Visit Pass stickers, which resulted in losses of more than RM15 million in government revenue.

The seven, aged between 30 and 39, comprised four employees of a security printing company and three civilians.

Sources said 2,500 pieces of government revenue stamps, worth RM250 and RM10, bringing the overall total to RM12.5 million, were seized during a major operation in various parts of the city here on Wednesday night.

"Based on investigations, the RM250 government revenue stamp was sold in the black market for a mere RM40, while the RM10 government revenue stamp was sold for between RM5 and RM6," the source said.

"The government revenue stamps are usually used as stamp duties for sales and purchase agreements, which can be purchased at the post office or the

Inland Revenue Board (IRB) branches.

"Further investigations revealed that the syndicate is also involved in selling Temporary Working Visit Pass with security features for the use of the Immigration Department. Each pass is being sold to foreign workers in the black market for between RM700 and RM800."

The Temporary Working Visit Pass, issued by the Immigration Department according to the job sectors, is usually sold for between RM2,000 and RM3,000.

The source said the syndicate's modus operandi was to bribe the printing company workers to smuggle out the government revenue stamps and PLKS stickers from their storage before selling them on the black market

through the three civilians.

"The syndicate is believed to have been active for the last three years and have raked in millions of ringgit in profit," the source added.

MACC deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Seri Ahmad Khusairi Yahaya when contacted confirmed the arrest.

He said the matter was being probed under Section 16 of the MACC Act 2009.

"We view this matter seriously as it resulted in losses due to leakage of government revenue," he said.

Intelligence and surveillance of the syndicate's activities had been carried out for the past six months following cooperation between the MACC and the Immigration Department.