

ANWAR FURIOUS ABOUT CONTAINER DRUG CASE

PM says he took action against syndicate operating for 20 years

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DATUK Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday revealed how he took action against a drug syndicate that had operated for 20 years.

Although Anwar became aware of the drug cartel before becoming prime minister, he said after assuming office and raising the widely discussed matter with relevant agencies, he saw no movement.

"Then the case involving a container of drugs happened. The container left Port Klang and was seized in Australia.

"That made me furious. I told them, 'Don't tell me that nothing is happening.

"It is not a needle box, it is a container. I cannot tolerate this anymore,'" he said during a dialogue session with the media here yesterday.

Anwar said he took follow-up action, including holding weekly meetings with the heads of relevant agencies.

"What happened after those reports? Take Port Klang, for example. Hundreds of containers were coming in disguised as e-waste.

"So we said, 'raid them'. How, when, and by whom? That is the agencies' job."

Anwar added that the investigation revealed the involvement of syndicates and politicians.

"There were also criminal acts. Some people were killed by the syndicate."

Anwar, who is finance minister, commended enforcement agencies in the country for taking decisive action.

"Now, action has been taken. We have seized assets and charged several people in court."

Inspector-General of Police Datuk Seri Mohd Khalid Ismail said Anwar's warning underscored the seriousness of the threat and reaffirmed the government's commitment to dismantling international drug networks using Malaysia as a transit point.

He said the Narcotics Crime Investigation Department had been monitoring syndicates using sea routes and cargo containers as their primary smuggling method, a tactic that continues despite years of enforcement pressure.

"A turning point in regional cooperation came after the Australian Border Force seized 336kg of heroin in March 2023," he said yesterday.

Khalid added that investigations found the container had passed through Port Klang before reaching Australia.

"That incident became the foundation for strengthening regional intelligence and collaborative operations."

He said following multiple rounds of joint investigations, Bukit Aman and the Australian Federal Police established a Malaysia-Australia Joint Taskforce during the Interpol General Assembly in Glasgow on Nov 6 last year.

The task force, he added, targeted syndicates exploiting the container cargo system between both countries.

"The cooperation has led to major busts, including on Jan 25 in Port Klang, where 33.2 tonnes of syabu worth RM1.062 billion, believed to be from Central Asia and en route to Australia were seized.

"On Nov 7, in Port Klang, another 45kg of syabu, valued at RM1.44 million and hidden inside a specially constructed compartment in a cargo container, was seized."

He said the operations highlighted police's capability to disrupt transnational drug syndicates and underscored the importance of shared intelligence.

He said the force will not tolerate any attempt to threaten Malaysia's security or public well-being. **Additional reporting by Olivia Miwil**