



KERATAN AKHBAR

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Customs seize pangolin scales worth RM13.6m

SEPANG — Customs enforcement officers have foiled yet another attempt to smuggle pangolin scales worth RM13.6 million into Malaysia.

The contraband was brought into the country via a Turkish Airlines and the cargo originated from Ghana.

"The seizure weighing 288 kg was packed into 12 boxes," Customs Department deputy director Datuk Paddy Abdul Halim said.

"The boxes were labelled as 'oyster shells' and were supposed to be released on Friday."

Checks found the boxes were addressed to a non-existent recipient in Ampang, Selangor.

"The name and address on the airway bill was wrong and efforts to contact the recipient proved futile," Paddy told a press conference at the customs cargo complex.

He said this was the third smuggling attempt of pangolin scales this year.

Early last month, the department seized 712 kg of pangolin scales worth RM9.12 million smuggled from Congo and Ghana.

The pangolin scales were smuggled in separate packagings on May 1 and May 2.

The first batch was found to have been labelled as "general product", while the second was described to be "dry herbs".



Customs officers Noorashidi Ramli (left) and Mohamad Syawal Mohd Norizan with the seized pangolin scales on Friday.
— Picture by Hari Anggara