



Marine police checking the fertiliser and commodities seized at **Weld Quay** in **Penang** yesterday. Pic by Zulaikha Zainuzman

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## 6 crewmen held for smuggling in fertiliser, commodities

**GEORGE TOWN:** Six Indonesian crewmen of a barter trade boat, including the 66-year-old skipper, were rounded up by marine police for allegedly smuggling in RM1 million worth of fertiliser and commodities into Penang.

They had docked their 30m-long boat, *KLM Sutia Indah II*, at Weld Quay at 3pm on Wednesday.

Deputy state marine police commander Superintendent Dimin Awang said his men boarded the boat, which set sail from Aceh in Indonesia, at Weld Quay to inspect its cargo.

"The boat had entered the waters through legal means with proper documentation, but it had not declared the cargo on board.

"The goods seized comprised tens of thousands of kilogrammes of fertiliser, coconuts, coffee beans, cook-

ing oil, sugar and palm leaves that have not been quarantined or inspected by authorities," he said at the state marine police headquarters in Batu Uban yesterday.

Dimin said a marine police tugboat had escorted the boat back to the Batu Uban pier.

He said the crew had violated Section 11(1) of the Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Services Act 2010, and were liable to a fine of up to RM60,000 upon conviction.

The case has been referred to the Quarantine and Inspection Services Department.

The crewmen, aged between 25 and 66, are under marine police custody and will be handed over to the department for further action.

They are expected to be released, but the goods will remain with the department.