



Customs' Warn to Thai Women over Harm via the Internet

The Customs Department warns Thai women over harm via the Internet. Thai women contacting a foreigner via the Internet must be very careful as many of them were deceived to pay a large amount of money as taxes and duties for overseas gifts.

In the meantime, Customs received reports from many Thai women that they contacted male foreigners via the Internet. Such male foreigners told them that such gifts as notebooks, necklaces, or cash, etc. would be delivered to them. These Thai women then were contacted by an overseas freight forwarder e.g. Malaysia, the Philippines, etc. via e-mail and telephone, asking them to transfer a large amount of money as taxes and duties for the clearance of goods in such countries and transportation costs.

Thai Customs confirms that such conduct is considered as a crook. The normal practice to clear goods destined to a consignee in Thailand is that all goods are cleared by a Customs officer at the port of entry. If the imported goods are subject to taxes and duties, the payment is made under Thai laws in Thailand. The clearance of goods and payment of taxes and duties has never been processed overseas.

Besides the above mentioned case, recently the Customs officers at the Phiboon Mangsaharn Customs House in collaboration with the police in Ubon Ratchatane, arrested the person who dressed and claimed to be a Customs officer, traveling with a Customs-logo vehicle. This person stopped and searched a car, goods, and collected money from a vender shop in Ubon Ratchatane, Yasothon, Amnard Charoen, Mukdaharn, Srisaket, and Roi-Et. This conduct is considered as an offence in forgery and use of insignia without permission under Section 6 to 8 of the Official Insignia Act B.E. 2482, an offence in forgery and use of fake registration plate under the Land Transportation Act B.E. 2522, including the forgery and use of counterfeit official documents under the Penal Code.

Any suspicious conducts on this issue can be verified at the Customs website, www.customs.go.th or contact the Communication and Information Service Division, Thai Customs, at telephone 0-26677988 or Customs Hotline at 1164.

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