

MMEA: 340 maritime crime cases recorded from Jan-April

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LOCAL 'TEKONG DARAT' INVOLVED

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PUTRAJAYA: The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) has recorded 340 cases involving maritime criminal activities from January to April this year.

MMEA maritime enforcement and coordination division director Rear Admiral (M) Hamid Mohd Amin said the maritime criminal activities recorded included the smuggling of drugs, ketum, subsidised controlled items, illegal immigrants and the intrusion of foreign fishing boats into the country's waters.

He said illegal foreign fishermen, who normally encroached on the waters of Kelantan and Terengganu, were brazen enough to enter through Pulau Tioman as they were experts on the country's waterways.

He said it was believed that

there were syndicates involving local ground coordinators (*tekong darat*).

Hamid said the cooperation among various agencies, as in Op Benteng when the country was

hit by Covid-19, needed to be further expanded in terms of information sharing and technology improvement to enable each agency to improve its planning and capabilities.

"We see the need for mutual understanding, agreement and collaboration between agencies involved in the enforcement and legal aspects of the maritime law. This is

to create uniformity of implementation to overcome the 'grey area', which involves enforcement coordination and duplication of powers," he said after launching the Maritime Enforcement Seminar here yesterday.

Bernama



Rear Admiral (M)
Hamid Mohd Amin