

Boat carrying controlled items seized off Tawau

KOTA KINABALU: An Indonesian cargo boat carrying controlled items without permit has been seized while attempting to smuggle the goods out of Tawau waters, according to Tawau zone Malaysian-Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA).

Two men without documents but believed to be from the neighbouring country were also detained, MMEA corporate communications unit added.

Tawau MMEA patrol team discovered the vessel carrying 80 LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) tanks, 7.2 tonnes of granulated sugar in 7,200 packets, and frozen food, namely 3,200 packets of chicken frankfurters and 865 packets of chicken balls around 8.30am Thursday.

It was making its way towards Sungai Melayu, off Sebatik Island, the unit said.

"The value of the total items seized including the cargo boat and one unit of engine boat is estimated at RM175,000," said Tawau MMEA director Capt Siva Kumar Vengadasalam in a statement yesterday.

"The skipper and the crew who failed to produce any documents during a routine check by the patrol team are being detained," he added.

They are held under the Control of Supplies Act 1961 for bringing controlled items without permission and Immigration Act 1959/63 for failing to provide valid identification documents.

The items and suspects, Capt Siva Kumar said, had been taken to Tawau maritime jetty and handed over to the maritime zone investigating officer for



Confiscated: Items including packets of granulated sugar and frozen chicken frankfurters were found on the boat off Tawau, Kota Kinabalu.

further probe.

Separately, Tawau MMEA also detained three foreigners who did not possess any documents on board a fibre boat at Menampilik waters in Semporna on Thursday.

The patrol team inspected the vessel around 1pm, which led to the arrest of the three and the boat's seizure.

"The suspects and the boat, including their fishing equipment, were brought to the Semporna maritime jetty to be handed to the investigating officer," said Capt Siva Kumar.