

Bid to smuggle out 5.7 tonnes of cooking oil

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Mohd Yusri (third from left) and KPDNHEP Tawau deputy chief Yapp Kon Fatt (second from left) showing the seized cooking oil.

TAWAU: A local teenager was nabbed for trying to smuggle out 5.7 tonnes of cooking oil in a jongkong (boat) from here on Thursday.

Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) Deputy Director for Tawau Zone, Commander Mohd Yusri Hussin, said they arrested the 19-year-old who was heading to Sungai Melayu, Sebatik Island.

This was the second biggest seizure recorded by the MMEA in the district this year. Mohd Yusri said a MMEA patrol boat intercepted the suspicious boat metres away from Indonesian waters.

He said they found 337 boxes packed with cooking oil packets weighing 5,729kg and worth about RM14,000 following the arrest about 5.30pm.

"We also seized the boat, three engines and four gas cylinders," he said, adding that the total value all the items seized were about RM45,000.

The case has been handed over for investigations by the Tawau office of Domestic Trade, Cooperative and Consumerism Ministry (KPDNHEP).

Deputy chief of KPDNHEP Tawau, Yapp Kon Fatt, said investigation on the case will be carried out especially on licensing, whether the individual involved has a licence or not.

"For example, if two brands were involved, we will investigate both suppliers to check whether they have supplied to the licensed one. If there is violation of laws involved, stern action will be taken against them.

"Even though the case could be compounded, we will not take such action but bring it to the court as a lesson for others as well," he added.