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Detention of vessels by Indonesian Authorities in Singapore Straits

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The Indonesian government is seriously demonstrating its commitment to the success of Import Control, Excise and Illegal Exports in the Malacca Strait, the East Coast of Sumatra and Batam, after the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Directorate General of Customs and Excise (DJBC) with Sea Transportation Directorate, Ministry of Transportation at Batu Ampar Port, Batam, Tuesday (01/15).

The government has compiled 11 strategic steps which are divided into 3 major themes, namely the Synergy Program, Support for Facilities and Infrastructure for Joint Operation and Monitoring, with activities including:

1. Unauthorized port control to prevent the entry or expulsion of illegal goods to / from the Batam Free Zone;
2. Management of ship to ship area to prevent the mode of smuggling of goods by demolition in the middle of the sea from ship to ship without regard to applicable customs provisions;
3. Data exchange related to ships departing from ports, both destinations outside customs and inter-island areas to facilitate supervision of ships carrying imported / exported goods or goods that will enter / exit Batam Free Zone;
4. Establishment of Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) to create a synergic monitoring pattern between agencies in the context of maritime supervision;
5. The obligation to use Automatic Identification System (AIS) for all ships in Indonesia to facilitate the supervision of ships carrying imported / exported goods or goods that will enter / exit the Batam Free Zone;
6. Speed restrictions for non-government / non-military vessels to combat smuggling with small high-speed vessels;
7. Issuance of import quotas in Batam's Free Trade Zone and Control of quota of Excisable Goods that enter the Batam Free Zone so that they do not occur over quota and quota abuse;
8. Utilization of IT-based communication analysis to detect / seek violations / suspected perpetrators of violations / criminal acts;
9. Marine patrol with DJBC, TNI and POLRI in the waters around Batam and the East Coast of Sumatra;
10. Operations with DJBC, TNI, and POLRI in the area of origin or destination for smuggling imported goods from abroad or from Batam Free Zone that does not fulfill customs obligations and does not pay Import Duty and Taxes for Import;
11. Layered supervision of illegal ex-imported goods transported between islands for the Tanjung Priok port area (from Batam and Pontianak).