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ALOR STAR, SEPT. 19 (BERNAMA) - THE GOVERNMENT WILL ORDER ALL IMPORTERS OF FISH TO USE SMALLER CRATES LINED WITH PLASTIC TO FACILITATE CHECKS AGAINST DRUG AND WEAPON SMUGGLING.

THE CABINET COMMITTEE ON SMUGGLING WILL ISSUE A DIRECTIVE TO THIS EFFECT SOON, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID TODAY.

HE TOLD BERNAMA THE MATTER WAS CAREFULLY STUDIED BEFORE THE DECISION WAS MADE.

SMALLER CRATES LINED WITH PLASTIC WOULD FACILITATE INSPECTION, ESPECIALLY BY THE CUSTOMS, AT THE BORDER AREAS.

THIS WAS BECAUSE THE SMALLER CRATES WOULD BE EASIER TO HANDLE AND THE PLASTIC LINING WOULD ENABLE MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF METAL DETECTORS.

THE MOVE WOULD ALSO BE MORE ECONOMICAL TO THE IMPORTERS, HE ADDED. - BERNAMA MORE 1138/BW

DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THE GOVERNMENT TOOK A SERIOUS VIEW OF DRUG AND ARMS SMUGGLING INTO THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID OF LATE THERE HAD BEEN NUMEROUS ARMED ROBBERIES AND SHOOTINGS INVOLVING SMALL FIREARMS.

+BECAUSE WE DO NOT KNOW FOR SURE THAT THE THE WEAPONS ARE MANUFACTURED LOCALLY, WE MUST ASSUME THAT THEY ARE SMUGGLED INTO THE COUNTRY. + HE ADDED.

THE AUTHORITIES SUSPECTED THAT ONE WAY OF BRINGING THEM INTO THE COUNTRY WAS BY CONCEALING THEM IN BIG CRATES OF IMPORTED FISH.

THE SIZE OF THE CRATES MADE IT DIFFICULT TO CHECK THE CONTENTS.
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