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Police-Tioman

PULAU TIOMAN TO HAVE MARINE POLICE BASE TO CURB SMUGGLING

PULAU TIOMAN, Sept 1 (Bernama) -- A permanent marine police base will be set up on the island soon in line with its declaration as a duty-free island effective today.

Pahang Public Order and Traffic Police Chief, Supt Baharuddin Sarbaini said the base aimed to provide better supervision in maintaining security around the island to curb smuggling.

"Generally, we have identified the location for the permanent base on the island and temporarily, a marine police boat would be deployed to patrol the waters off the island," he told reporters after inspecting the waters around the island on a PZ10 patrol boat, here today.

Baharuddin said the permanent base would have a marine police jetty and an office under the command and supervision of the Eastern Region Marine Police based in Kemaman, Terengganu.

"The base on the island is important so that police can respond faster with regard to smuggling activities," he said.

Pulau Tioman, with an area of 13,360 hectares and located 36 nautical miles from Tanjung Gemok, Rompin, was announced as a duty-free island by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in January.

The enforcement of Pulau Tioman as a duty-free island takes effect today after five relevant acts namely the Customs Act, Service Tax Act, Sales Tax Act, Excise Act and Free Zone Act were gazetted in Parliament recently.

-- BERNAMA

ZAM MS AO