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Security measures along Thai border stepped up

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The Defence Ministry will continue to deploy its men to carry out round-the-clock border patrols to curb smuggling activities along the Malaysia-Thailand border.

This includes any attempt to smuggle banned Thai chicken by unscrupulous traders following the detection of the bird flu in Thailand, its Deputy Minister Datuk Mohd Shafie Apdal said today.

He said although the Ministry was not directly involved in the stepping up of security measures along the borders following the announcement of the ban, soldiers have been on the lookout for such activities.

"The Ministry will continue to assist the authorities to prevent the smuggling activities, including the smuggling of banned Thai chicken along the border following the detection of bird flu in Thailand," he added.

Following the announcement on Friday, authorities have stepped up security measures at the Malaysia-Thailand border.

Mohd Shafie was speaking to reporters after a cheque presentation ceremony by a group of artists to the Warriors' Day Appeal Fund at the Menara Maybank today.

At the ceremony, Mohd Shafie, who is also the chairman of the fund, was presented a cheque for RM28,640 which was part of the proceeds from the sale at the "Imajan dan Suara Kemerdekaan" art exhibition held in August last year.

Some 107 paintings were displayed during the exhibition between Aug 6 and Sept 5 at the Balai Seni Menara Maybank.

Presenting the cheque was the artists' representative Ismail Latiff and the ceremony was witnessed by Maybank vice-chairman Datuk Richard Ho.

The art exhibition was jointly organised by the Maybank Group and Anugerah Gallery Sdn Bhd in line with the 46th Merdeka celebration last year which was officiated by the then Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Aug 6.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Maybank Group had also contributed RM200,000 to the fund.

Commending the artists for their contribution, Mohd Shafie welcomed other private sector firms and individuals lending a helping hand to ease the burden of surviving members of the Armed Forces.

He said at the moment, a total of RM1.4 million in donations had been received and the Ministry hoped to meet its RM3 million target this year.