

What? Corruption the reason for Sabah incursion?

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Recently, Tiger came across the news that our esteemed minister of defence Hishammuddin Hussein had pointed towards corruption as a reason behind the incursions into Sabah soil, not the equipment. What's intriguing is that there were also mentions of new equipment purchases. Hmm...

Tiger was minding its own business, stalking prey, napping, surfing the Internet, when Tiger came upon a rather interesting tidbit. Seems our minister of defence has, after an assessment of the Sabahan coastline, decided that one of the primary issues with the incursions into Sabahan lands is due to leaked information, low integrity, and corruption!

Tiger, territorial as it is, of course raises hackles and bares fangs at this. Who would DARE to forsake the task and trust placed upon them to safeguard the sovereignty of Malaysia's territories? However, after pacing to cool off and re-reading the articles a few times, Tiger found something fishy.

Apparently, the defence minister had also noted that it had nothing to do with equipment deficiency, but in the same vein, it was also revealed that the coastline of Sabah is not completely under radar coverage. In fact, there appear to be thoughts to propose three more radar stations or "remote sensor sites", one each in Pulau Mangalum and Kuala Penyu in Sabah, as well as one in Pulau Kuraman, Labuan. This is expected to be completed "by June 2015" as long as there is funding.

These three stations, in addition to the existing trio which were installed two years ago in Pulau Bambang, Pulau Mantanani Kecil and Pulau Gaya, would provide remote sensor site coverage for the whole west coast of Sabah.

However, Tiger has a few questions. One must always look before they leap, but why is it only now, after the horse has left the barn, that the door is closed with radar stations just being planned? Also, if the incursions were due to "information leaks, low integrity, and corruption", and not hardware issues, would not the three standing stations be enough to protect our shores?

Or, and Tiger finds this a bit harder to swallow, is this a case of both, stemming from an initial lack of preparedness and a tidak-apa attitude? If Tiger recalls correctly, there was an expose during the Lahad Datu incursion that showed how the police had disregarded the insurgents as a threat.

Among the reports also noted were that the insurgents were given food and water during the negotiations! While Tiger understands showing signs of goodwill in the hopes of successful negotiations, these are armed fighters entering sovereign territory with an intent to take control. If this is the general attitude Malaysia's defence force has towards armed intruders within its borders, Tiger shudders to think about what would happen if an unknown entity ever entered Malaysian airspace.

Oh wait, there already was such a case! When there was an unknown radar blip within Malaysian airspace, no fighters were scrambled to intercept the unknown flying object! It's like the RM5 million a year per aircraft spent by Malaysian taxpayers is so the MiG-29s can sit in the hangar.

The rationale for why there was no interception was that "we did not want to shoot it down, thus there was no point sending a fighter", according to our defence minister.

Well, hearing that, Tiger can only think that there seem to be only two modes that the Malaysian Defence Force can operate on, with one being "utter-peace-to-the-point-of-laxness" and the other being "maim-kill-and-burn-everything". Complete extremes of the meter. Tiger sincerely hopes that the intervention, interdiction, and prevention parts of maintaining the peace is made known to the armed forces, rather than just those two settings.

Tiger also heard that the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission is going to be more vigilant in Sabah, to prevent more incursions, kidnappings, or information leaks and weak integrities. Tiger prays that with this move, Tiger's home country can remain safe. After all, where else can Tiger go? Now, Tiger is going to go find some shade. It really is getting much too warm these days.

GRRRRR!!!

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