

Missing MT Joaquim Oil Tanker Found - Minus RM2.8 Million Cargo
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PUTRAJAYA, Aug 9 (Bernama) -- An oil tanker laden with 3,500 tonnes of crude marine fuel oil which was reported missing last night, while sailing from Tanjung Pinang, Indonesia to Langkawi was found today - minus the cargo.

The Singapore-registered MT Joaquim was located 14 nautical miles east off Pulau Rapat, Indonesia after it was released by pirates at 8.55am.

While its 10 crew members are safe, the cargo worth RM2.8 million is believed to have been seized by the pirates.

Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) deputy director-general (operations) Vice-Admiral Datuk Ahmad Puzi Ab Kahar said the tanker and its crew were released by pirates at 8.55am, but the cargo was missing.

Speaking at a press conference here today, he said MMEA received a report on the missing ship from the ship's agent at 9.30pm and a search and rescue operation was launched immediately.

The cargo ship, last reported to be at the Tanjong Pinang port at 11pm was scheduled to arrive at Langkawi at 3am today.

Ahmad Puzi said based on a 'noon report' sent by the ship to its agent, the vessel was reported to be located about 21.9 nautical miles west off Port Dickson at 1.50 pm yesterday.

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