

Asean must address new transnational crime, says Zahid
The Malaysian Insider
Sept 29, 2015

The new development in transnational crime as identified by the United Nations (UN) has to be addressed thoroughly by Asean, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

Zahid, who is also home minister, said that was why the Kuala Lumpur Declaration in Combatting Transnational Crime proposed by Malaysia should be adopted and signed by the 10 Asean members.

"The declaration among others highlighted issues that have to be seriously considered by the ministers, such as the emergence of the new forms of transnational crime, including the call for the formulation of a new Asean Plan of Actions to Combat Transnational Crime since the last action plan was drawn in 2002.

"As all Asean members are signatory to the United Nations' Convention on Transnational Crime (Untoc), thus it calls for readiness on our part to embrace changes that will take place in the near future in terms of the emergence of new forms of transnational crime," the deputy prime minister said.

Zahid said this when opening the 10th Asean Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime and the Special Asean Ministerial Meeting On The Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism today.

According to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the new forms of transnational crime include among others the illicit trades of nature and cultural heritage, illegal wildlife trade, illicit trade in wood-based products, illicit trade in electrical and electronic waste or e-waste, illicit trade in ozone-depleting substances and counterfeit consumer goods.

Meanwhile, traditional areas in transnational crime were trafficking in persons, cybercrime, sea-piracy, economic-related crimes, money laundering, and smuggling of arms and drugs.

The deputy prime minister said transnational crime had grave implications for the stability, security, sovereignty and public order of individual nations.

"Transnational crime is a phenomenon which essentially involves movement of people across borders, and transborder financial transactions including involvement of transnational organised crime syndicates.

"It affects the very fabric of our societies at all levels, so much so that it has been argued that the struggle against organised and transnational crime will be the defining security concern of the twenty-first century," Zahid said. – Bernama, September 29, 2015.

Copyright © 2015 Edge Insider Sdn Bhd

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/asean-must-address-new-transnational-crime-says-zahid>