

## **Singapore, Thailand to Be Invited As Observers for Sulu Sea Patrol**

**Bernama**

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KUALA LUMPUR, April 18 (Bernama) -- Malaysia plans to invite Singapore and Thailand to become observers for security patrols in the Sulu Sea, said Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein.

He put forward the proposal to Singapore Defence Minister Dr Ng Eng Hen during their bilateral meeting here, Monday.

"We have cooperated with Singapore and Thailand to monitor the security aspects in the Straits of Melaka before, so I believe this approach can be implemented based on the experiences they have.

"If we succeed in carrying out the proposed patrols with the Philippines, Indonesia and Brunei with Singapore and Thailand as observers, I feel this will be a major contribution from the Defence Ministry and Malaysian Armed Forces towards security in the Sulu Sea," he said.

He said this to reporters after opening the Malaysian Defense and Security Hall (MDaS) at the Defence Services Asia Exhibition and Conference (DSA) 2016 at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

On Saturday, Hishammuddin had suggested to the defense ministers of the Philippines, Indonesia and Brunei on patrols and monitoring with neighbouring countries to tackle piracy and kidnapping in the Sulu Sea.

He said the approach which was implemented by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak to tackle piracy in the Straits of Melaka had succeeded in reducing piracy in the waters of the Strait.

Asked if the ministry had identified assets to be procured during the exhibition, he said it need not necessarily be during the exhibition but depended on the threat to the country.

"We identify the assets and at the same time we must identify the threat faced based on networking sessions with foreign countries (at the exhibition)," he said.

The exhibition which started today saw participation from 60 countries.

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