

Headline	M`sia sent Rohingya boat away with food as borders closed - Hamzah		
MediaTitle	Borneo Post (KK)		
Date	01 May 2020	Color	Black/white
Section	Home	Circulation	18,290
Page No	4	Readership	54,870
Language	English	ArticleSize	97 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 270
Frequency	Daily (EM)	PR Value	RM 811



M`sia sent Rohingya boat away with food as borders closed – Hamzah

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian authorities turned away a boat with ethnic Rohingya from Myanmar only after providing them with food to continue their journey elsewhere, Home Minister Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainudin said yesterday.

Hamzah was referring to a recent news report of the Royal Malaysian Navy intercepting a boat carrying about 200 Rohingya that was spotted 70 nautical miles away from Langkawi, with the crew of a navy ship providing food to them on humanitarian grounds before ensuring the boat left the country's waters.

"Referring to the action of Malaysian authorities disallowing a boat carrying ethnic Rohingya from entering the country's waters on April 17, the Home Ministry stresses that that measure is in line with the law to prevent the sovereignty of

the country's borders from being intruded.

"However, on a humanitarian basis, Malaysian authorities had distributed food supplies before escorting that boat out from the country's waters," he said in a statement yesterday.

Hamzah also highlighted that Malaysia had closed its borders to all foreigners to fight the Covid-19 outbreak.

"The action of tightening borders including illegal entryways to block the intrusion of illegal immigrants is in line with the government's measure to close the country's entry points to foreigners to break the chain of transmission of the Covid-19 disease.

"The Home Ministry wishes to stress that the authorities remain ready to block any intrusion to the country's borders and waters," he said.