



The Rantau Panjang Immigration, Customs, Quarantine and Security Complex in Kelantan. The checkpoint was the first to be placed under the jurisdiction of the Malaysian Border Control and Protection Agency. NSTP FILE PIC

BEEFING UP ENFORCEMENT

BORDER AGENCY WATCH ON 22 ENTRY POINTS

Customs reassigned 1,053 officers to MCBA in major shift to tackle smuggling, cross-border crime

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MORE than 1,000 Customs Department personnel were transferred to the Malaysian Border Control and Protection Agency (MCBA) today as the new agency takes on more responsibilities.

The move marks a major shift

in the nation's fight against smuggling and cross-border crime at Malaysia's 22 border checkpoints.

The Rantau Panjang Immigration, Customs, Quarantine and Security Complex in Kelantan was the first complex to be fully run by the MCBA on Jan 1. The agency assumed responsibility at the other 21 entry points on Feb 2.

To facilitate the transfer of du-

ties, the Customs Department transferred eight officers to MCBA at the Rantau Panjang checkpoint on Jan 1, and 1,045 officers at 21 entry points from today, said Customs director-general Datuk Anis Rizana Mohd Zainudin in a statement yesterday.

It is understood that following the move, the MCBA will be the sole agency at the entry points tackling cross-border crimes.

"The move strengthens Malaysia's border enforcement while allowing the Customs Department to concentrate on its core mandate as the country's main revenue collector.

"The strengthened role of MCBA at the borders will not only ensure better protection of our sovereignty but also safeguard the security of the people," Anis said.

Under the new structure, the MCBA will be responsible for inspecting individuals, vehicles and goods at checkpoints, tasks previously carried out by the Customs Department.

Customs, meanwhile, will fo-

cus on tax assessment and collection at land, sea and air checkpoints.

Anis said the collaboration between both agencies would ensure seamless border operations.

"Close cooperation between our agencies will guarantee smooth clearance processes while contributing to higher revenue collection and improved service quality at the nation's entry points," she added.

MCBA in a separate statement expressed its gratitude to the Customs Department for its support in facilitating the transfer of inspection functions.

"The redeployment of 1,045 Customs officers across 21 entry points starting Oct 1 will further strengthen our role and responsibilities at the borders.

"With this support, MCBA will continue to enhance enforcement, control and security at the country's entry points," it said.

MCBA added that it looked forward to a stronger partnership with the Customs Department in protecting Malaysia's borders.

