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# Analysis of the Role of Indonesia and Malaysia Cooperation through the General Border Committee in Handling Drug Trafficking in the Contingent in the Entikong Border

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**Abstract**

*The General Border Committee (GBC) has played a significant role in informing collaboration between Indonesia and Malaysia in handling the issue of drug trafficking at the Entikong Border Crossing Point from 2020 to 2022. This joint effort is of utmost importance in effectively battling transnational crimes at the shared border of both nations. International crimes, including drug smuggling, human trafficking, and terrorism, have been recognized as a significant threat to the security and defense of the border region in question. The objective of this study is to analyze the collaboration between Indonesia and Malaysia, which was facilitated by the GBC, in their efforts to address drug trafficking at the PLBN Entikong border crossing between 2020 and 2021. The study utilized a qualitative research methodology with a descriptive approach. The findings of this study indicate that GBC serves as a strategic cooperation forum aimed at fostering peace, particularly along the Indonesia-Malaysia border. Its primary objective is to safely guard the border against illegal activities, including drug trafficking. The collaboration between Indonesia and Malaysia through GBC continues to evolve through regular meetings, which are designed to address and mitigate illicit drug trafficking activities, ultimately contributing to global peace. Through GBC, both countries have reached an agreement to prioritize collaboration by mobilizing their respective agencies to tackle various forms of legal violations that take place at the shared border.*

**Keywords: General Border Committee, Drug Trafficking, Security, and Cooperation.**



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## INTRODUCTION

Drug trafficking is one of the cross-border crimes, which is an international level crime. Drug trafficking is a crime that often occurs and is not a conventional crime because it is a crime that crosses national borders because it involves two different state regulations. Drug trafficking is considered the most profitable illicit economic activity and is estimated to generate hundreds of billions of dollars in revenue annually. Drug trafficking is a form of activity that overlaps with other violations (Williams et al, 2012).

Drug trafficking activities on the Indonesia-Malaysia border at Entikong Border Crossing Point have been going on for a long time and have become a severe problem, proven by the several arrests at Entikong. In 2020, there was an arrest by the Entikong Police with evidence of 2.9 kg of methamphetamine brought by the perpetrator with the initials RDM from Malaysia. The arrest case occurred in 2021 when customs seized 3 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine, 11.9 grams of marijuana, and 18.7 kg of methamphetamine. Not only that, Customs and Excise also succeeded in arresting drug smugglers who would be smuggled into Indonesia originating from Malaysia. The smuggling was carried out inside the speaker but was discovered by Entikong Customs officers. 21.2 grams of crystal methamphetamine. On 2 June 2022, Customs and Excise foiled drug smuggling again at Entikong Border Crossing Point. Customs and Excise seized 494.2 grams of methamphetamine (Customs, 2021).

Drug smuggling is a matter of concern in the world today because of the negative impacts it has. Serious attention is needed to deal with this case. Drug smuggling will bring the country into severe decline and will damage the country. Data from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in 2021 shows that 275 million people, or around 5.5% of the world's population, used drugs in 2020, and in 2021, there will be more than 36 million people in the world experiencing mental disorders due to drug abuse. (UNODC, 2021).

Transnational crime is a threat to the country and society within it. Transnational crime can be a threat to human security and also a threat to the security stability of the country. Drug trafficking or drug smuggling is an organized international crime, also called organized crime. Transnational crimes that usually occur in a country's border areas are smuggling of illegal immigrants and drug trafficking (Tobing, 2002).

Therefore, cooperation between Indonesia and Malaysia is needed to handle the drug trafficking problem at the Entikong Border Crossing Point, the border between Indonesia and Malaysia. Implementing the Security Arrangement in 1972 in Kuala



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Lumpur gave birth to the General Border Committee (GBC), formed in July in Parapat, North Sumatra, 1972. The General Border Committee is a forum for cooperation between Indonesia and Malaysia related to security and the military. The General Border Committee is a forum that facilitates dialogue between the two countries, Indonesia and Malaysia, to achieve border area security goals. Since its formation in 1972, the General Border Committee has held 42 sessions. The final trial, namely the 42nd trial, will be held in 2022 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Previously, the 41st General Border Committee session was held in Bali, Indonesia. This forum becomes a forum for the two countries, Indonesia and Malaysia, to form cooperation for border security defense (Nurulmahmuda, 2022).

Researchers are interested in researching "Analysis of Indonesia-Malaysia Cooperation through the General Border Committee in Handling Drug Trafficking in PLBN Entikong 2020-2022". We want to know how cooperation between Indonesia and Malaysia deals with drug trafficking in PLBN Entikong. Researchers want to describe how Indonesia and Malaysia collaborated through the General Border Committee in dealing with drug trafficking in PLBN Entikong in 2020-2022. Cooperation is needed in dealing with drug trafficking in PLBN Entikong in 2020-2022 so that security can be created on the borders of the two countries, Indonesia and Malaysia.

## LITERATURE ANALYSIS AND METHODOLOGY

According to  in the book An Introduction to International Criminal Law and Procedure, the definition of transnational crime explains that international, transnational crimes cause global chaos or actions that violate the values protected by international law (Robert Cryer, 2017). The transnational crimes are drug trafficking, terrorism, illegal weapons trafficking, money laundering, and human trafficking (Cryer et al, 2007).

As presented by national security is accepted in academic circles where the definition of security refers to the level of protection of values previously achieved (Steinbrocker et al, 1952). There are various types of security, including group, state, and individual security. Therefore,  defines security as the protection of values that have been achieved, what is expected for the future, and the efforts obtained to be enjoyed (Amaritasi, 2015).

This is causing increasingly diverse global phenomena to emerge as a threat to national security, which also involves the development of information technology, which is developing rapidly now. So, changes in threats have become security threats, which



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were initially just military (traditional) threats, becoming increasingly widespread towards non-military (non-traditional) security threats (Rosy et al, 2020).

Cooperation is defined as a process carried out by the government as an alternative solution to the problems faced. Meanwhile, KJ Holsti (1988) stated that international cooperation is formed by combining various national, regional, and global issues that require attention from other countries or more than one country.

## METHODOLOGY

This research uses a qualitative method with a descriptive approach. Sugiyono (2011) explains that the researcher holds the central role in qualitative methods, while the method is to observe the natural state of a particular object. The object in question is an object that is not manipulated or an object that is as it is so that there is no change when the researcher enters the object and if he has occupied the object and left it (Sugiyono, 2013).

Sugiyono explained that qualitative research looks at the dynamism of an object which results from thinking and interpretation, which is constructed from a sign that is observed, in this case, there is a wholeness because the elements of the object have become one and inseparable. The nature of integrity that emphasizes the process is part of qualitative research, so qualitative research tends to be more interactive in looking at the correlation between the object variables to be observed so that the independent and dependent variables can be known (Sugiyono, 2013).

Descriptive research is a method for providing descriptions of certain events, both natural and created by humans. This method seeks to describe and interpret a phenomenon, for example, the circumstances or correlations that may have, the development of opinion, the occurrence of a stage, and the consequences. The phenomenon is explained in a natural way and without manipulation. A qualitative method with a descriptive approach to analyze cooperation between Indonesia and Malaysia through the General Border Committee (GBC) on drug trafficking as a threat to state security in more depth. Meanwhile, according to Morissan, the descriptive method is scientific research carried out carefully (Morisan, 2014). The data source in this research is secondary data.


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## RESEARCH AND RESULTS

### Illegal Drug Trafficking

Activities at PLBN Entikong Narcotics have increased since the 20th century; at that time, drug trafficking activities also increased. The production process, transportation, distribution, and abuse of drugs are increasing, which is also influenced by geographical and historical conditions in both consumer and producer countries. Currently, countries in Southeast Asia are facing a drug problem which is becoming severe for countries in Southeast Asia, including Indonesia. The countries called The Golden Triangle, namely Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand, are Southeast Asian countries that are the largest heroin production centers in the world (Williams et al, 2012).

The border between Indonesia and Malaysia is a favorite route for drug syndicates to import illegal goods into Indonesia. Entikong is one of several Entikong Border Crossing Points in West Kalimantan, a favorite route for drug syndicates. Entikong Border Crossing Point borders Malaysia by land, so this route can be passed using private vehicles or buses from Malaysia or Indonesia without crossing the sea or river. This also makes it easier for drug trafficking activities at PLBN Entikong to occur (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2019). In 2017, Customs and Excise, in collaboration with the National Narcotics Agency, succeeded in thwarting illegal drug trafficking activities at PLBN Entikong with evidence of 20 kilograms of methamphetamine from Kuching, Malaysia.

In 2018, Customs and Excise and the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) again succeeded in thwarting drug trafficking activities with evidence of 28,240 grams of crystal methamphetamine and 21,727 ecstasy pills with two total arrests brought from Kuching, Malaysia, to be sold in Indonesia. Furthermore, in 2019, 8 grams of methamphetamine 56 were successfully seized by the RI-Malaysia Civil Service Task Force, which would be brought to Indonesia via the rat route (BNN, 2019). In 2020, the number of drug trafficking activities at PLBN Entikong, there were three arrests by Entikong Customs and Excise with 16.23 kilograms of methamphetamine-type narcotics evidence. It is known that the drugs were smuggled from Malaysia via Entikong.

The method used is to import narcotics through unofficial routes around Entikong Border Crossing Point. Based on data from Entikong Customs and Excise in 2021, Entikong Customs succeeded in arresting drug trafficking activities from two total cases with evidence of 18.8 kilograms of methamphetamine. In 2022, there will be 12 total arrests for drug trafficking activities at PLBN Entikong, with a total of 47 kilograms of methamphetamine and 12,659 ecstasy pills. There has been an increase in the 2020-2022



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period. Drug TraffickingWhat happened at Entikong Border Crossing Point was caused by several things.

Namely firstly, inadequate detection equipment caused difficulties in carrying out checks, which made drugs difficult to detect. The position of POLRI in the Entikong Border Crossing Point area is limited. Second, there are many unofficial routes around PLBN Entikong, which has become a problem that has become an obstacle in dealing with drug trafficking. The geographical condition of the Entikong Entikong Border Crossing Point is also a factor in the large number of unofficial routes. There are extensive hills and forests around the Entikong Border Crossing Point.

The number of unofficial routes around the Entikong Border Crossing Point is not tiny (Kaba et al, 2021). Apart from that, the unofficial route around Entikong Border Crossing Point 55 Entikong tends to be difficult to access by motorized vehicle. It is not uncommon for patrols on unofficial routes to only be carried out on foot, which will hamper patrols on unofficial routes. Third, public awareness is considered lacking in dealing with drug trafficking in Entikong Border Crossing Point Entikong. Cooperation between communities around the border area is needed to deal with the drug trafficking problem (Kaba et al, 2021).

**Drug trafficking is a Transnational**

Crime that Threatens State Security. It cannot be denied that security threats are not only military. However, in reality, security threats emerge in another dimension, namely non-military threats or what are also called non-traditional threats. Some experts say non-traditional security threats include economic prosperity, environmental damage to international criminal organizations, and population migration. Meanwhile, what differentiates non-traditional threats from traditional threats is that first, threats do not only involve one country.

Second, it is not limited to one region because it represents national boundaries. Third, threats require serious handling. Fourth, it affects not only threatens the state but also individuals (Tobing, 2002). After the Cold War, issues related to security changed from high political issues to low political issues. Barry Buzan stated that there was a shift in security issues from traditional to non-traditional security, which was initially people-oriented, developing into multidimensional, which also included five dimensions: social, economic, environmental, military, political, and social (Buzan, 1991).



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The current security aspect is not only limited to competition between the two big countries but also state life, which coincides with globalization accompanied by rapidly developing technology and information, world integration in the economy, which increases the relationship between countries in the economic world, According to Barry Buzan, this research only focuses on four dimensions of security. First, the social threat from drug trafficking is related to norms and behavior contrary to society.

Drug trafficking, which leads to drug abuse, will have a severe impact on public health, which will result in death. Drug trafficking is a social problem directly related to individual security. Threats in the social dimension are considered very serious because they include individual security, which will be related to state security. According to the United Nations on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) 65, the negative impact of drug use is damage to health, transmission of HIV and Hepatitis C, and premature death (UNODC, 2021). Second, the political threat of drug trafficking impacts a country's politics. This occurs because the threat that a country will face with drug trafficking activities can weaken the legitimacy of a country's government and government authority.

If the legitimacy of the government and government authority is weakened, this will result in an increase in corruption plus the interference of drug syndicates in maintaining their business. Third, drug trafficking threatens the economic aspect, which causes people's purchasing power, limited resources, unemployment, and poverty. The presence of drugs in circulation causes the number of users to increase, which will affect productivity, which also affects the economy. Fourth, drug trafficking is a non-traditional, non-military threat, but drug trafficking can become a military threat.

Drug trafficking can become a military threat because it leads to rebellion movements by certain groups related to drug trafficking activities. Apart from that, to deal with this problem, military power is also needed by the government military (Akbar et al, 2019). In this case, Drug syndicates make various efforts to carry out their actions. The increase in Entikong Border Crossing Point from 2020 to 2022 is increasing and requires serious handling. Serious action is needed to deal with this problem because the severe impact on state security is very worrying.

**Cooperation between Indonesia and Malaysia through the General Border Committee**

Malaysia is a country that is Indonesia's closest international environment. These two countries need to secure their territory without giving rise to conflict. This is why the



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two countries need cooperation as a security defense. The cooperative relationship that is carried out arises from problems that occur, so cooperation is needed 70 to create solutions for the countries concerned. The cooperation must continue to be sustainable to build confidence-building measures (CBM) between member countries.

The success of this collaboration can be seen in how the collaborative relationship can continue into the following collaboration and the dynamics in the collaboration process (Akbar et al, 2019). Since the formation of the GBC in 1972, the GBC has held sessions 42 times. The 42nd GBC session was held on August 8-10 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The 42nd GBC session discussed transnational crimes on the border between Indonesia and Malaysia PLBN Entikong. Drug trafficking in PLBN Entikong is a transnational crime threatening state security. The form of cooperation carried out by the GBC in maintaining border security includes transnational drug trafficking crimes.

First, coordinate patrol activities on unofficial Entikong Border Crossing Point routes. Second, cooperation in the intelligence sector by mobilizing all agencies in Entikong Border Crossing Point and Custom Immigration and Quarantine (CIQ) Tebedu to identify potential security threats early, and prevention can be carried out more quickly.

Third, efforts are to prevent illegal activities around PLBN Entikong by adding joint posts by the Malaysian Military Forces and the Indonesian National Army. Fourth, there is an increase in radio quality, carried out as a proactive effort to ensure the quality of communication via radio at the border (Akbar et al, 2019). Fifth, a new post is used for Indonesian and Malaysian military liaison officers, also known as Liaison Officers, which aims to overcome the distance factor and prevent transnational crimes such as drug trafficking early on. Sixth, Conduct joint military training between the Malaysian Military Forces (ATM) and the Indonesian National Army (TNI), as well as the Indonesian Republic Police (Polri) and the Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM). This collaboration also exchanged information regarding transnational criminal activities (Akbar et al, 2019).

Cooperation is needed in creating state security in the defense sector. It is clear that the crime of drug trafficking is a crime that has the potential to damage national security, so cooperation is needed in dealing with drug trafficking at the PLBN Entikong border between Indonesia and Malaysia. GBC cooperation has proven effective based on the 41st GBC session in the border area of Indonesia and Malaysia. This can be seen from the ongoing welfare programs in annual meetings discussing essential matters with an increasing coverage area (Akbar et al, 2019). Apart from that, at the 42nd GBC session, a



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Joint Committee was formed, the aim of which was to form a Joint Committee in the GBC Indonesia and Malaysia cooperation forum for monitoring, managing, and implementing cooperative activities that would take place as stated in the memorandum of understanding between the two countries in 42nd GBC session.

Cooperation between Indonesia and Malaysia through the GBC must continue to be improved because the GBC is a forum for cooperation in dealing with problems related to transnational crime on the borders of Indonesia and Malaysia. Transnational crime certainly has a detrimental impact on Indonesia and Malaysia. Drug trafficking that occurs in PLBN will have a severe impact on the stability and security of both countries.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Cooperation through the General Border Committee (GBC) between Indonesia and Malaysia in handling drug trafficking at the Entikong Border Crossing Point, as stated in the memorandum of understanding between the two countries. In this memorandum of understanding, the forms of cooperation between Indonesia and Malaysia through the GBC are conducting regular dialogue and strategic consultations. Second, sharing strategic information in the defense sector, seminars, and study visits. Third, military cooperation in various fields. Third, cooperation in technology and science. Fourth, defense industry cooperation. Sixth, defense cooperation in other forms which were jointly decided at the 42nd GBC session. 80 General Border Committee (GBC) creates security and peace at land borders by not directly intervening. The General Border Committee (GBC) moves to encourage technical cooperation between the agencies under it. The General Border Committee created the Confidence Building Measure (CBM), which aims to reduce potential conflicts resulting from transnational drug trafficking crimes on the land borders of Indonesia and Malaysia. GBC is making efforts to deal with drug trafficking in PLBN Entikong, which is a severe threat to the security of both countries.

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