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The Vietnamese 'Datuk' being brought to the Putrajaya magistrate's court yesterday. PIC BY ABD RAHIM RAHMAT

Vietnamese 'Datuk' remanded in MACC probe

PUTRAJAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has obtained a seven-day remand order against a Vietnamese woman with a Datuk title to assist a probe into alleged graft involving the encroachment of foreign fishermen into Malaysian waters.

The remand order, effective yesterday, was issued by Ainna Sherina Saipolamin at the Putrajaya magistrate's court.

The 41-year-old was detained at the MACC office in Kuantan on Wednesday after she was summoned by the anti-graft body.

She had allegedly paid RM890,000 in five transactions to maritime officers in exchange for the release of Vietnamese boats seized for various offences.

The remand would aid MACC in identifying the boat owners and crewmen who were released as a result of the alleged bribe, as well as the seized boats that were using false registrations.

MACC will also probe the extent of links between public witnesses and those working with government agencies that conspired with the suspect.

The case is being investigated under Section 16(B)(b) of the MACC Act 2009.

Last week, the Vietnamese suspect was charged in Kuantan for allegedly offering an RM800,000 bribe to two Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) officers as an inducement to release nine Vietnamese fishing boats seized under the Fisheries Act 1985.

It is believed that the accused has been living in the country for the past 17 years and is married to a local.