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RMN's first China-made ship commissioned into service

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KOTA KINABALU: The Royal Malaysian Navy's (RMN) first Chinese-made new-class large patrol craft that will be stationed at its Sepanggar base, near here, was officially commissioned into service and named as "KD Keris" in a ceremony in Shanghai, Monday.

RMN Chief Admiral Tan Sri Mohd Reza Mohd Sany officially commissioned the littoral mission ship (LMS) at Wuchuan Shipbuilding Industry Co. Ltd, Wucang Port, Qidong, said a statement.

During the ceremony, Mohd Reza read out a ship commissioning order and handed over a command insignia to the ship's first commanding officer, Commander Mohd Zulkarnain Mohd Rawi.

The ship was scheduled to journey to Malaysia this Wednesday (Jan 8) and is expected to arrive at the RMN Base in Sepanggar from China on Jan 17.



Malaysia's first littoral mission ship KD Keris is commissioned into service with the Royal Malaysian Navy in a ceremony in Shanghai, China on Jan 6, 2020 (Photo: RMN).

Also present at the ceremony were the Ministry of Defence's Deputy Secretary-General (Development), Mastura Ahmad Mustafa, and top management of Boustead Naval Shipyard Sdn Bhd and China Shipbuilding and Offshore International Co. Ltd. (CSOC).

The building of Malaysia's first LMS started on July 31, 2018 in Wuhan, China. The second LMS, Sundang, which will also be based at the naval base in Sepanggar, has been scheduled to be handed over in April 2020, while the third and fourth vessels in mid-2021.

The contract for the four littoral mission ship was sealed between the navy and Boustead on March 23, 2017 with cooperation from CSOC. The LMS is one of five vessel classes in the navy's transformation programme, named "15 to 5", where its current 15 ship classes will be reduced to five to improve efficiency.