

Hyundai wreckage piles up in Batam

BATAM: The Environment Ministry has issued a permit to the Batam administration to store a shipwreck and its load of thousands of Korea-made cars in Batam, although critics say they may be hazardous to the environment.

The Korean vessel MV Hyundai 105 reportedly ran aground on May 22, 2004 in waters between Batam and Singapore, while carrying a cargo of 4,191 Hyundai cars.

Environment Minister Gusti Muhammad Hatta said that concerns about sea transportation safety near the site of the wreck was behind the issuance of the permit.

"The wreckage has been endangering sea traffic. As Batam is the nearest site on land to the shipwreck area, we have allowed the wreckage to be stored here," Gusti told The Jakarta Post in Batam on Friday.

The MV Hyundai 105 vessel collided with an oil tanker, the Kaminesan, which survived the collision and managed to anchor in Singapore, while the Korean vessel went aground. All the crew members were rescued from the wreck.