

Arsonists unlikely to be

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Indon's PM

KUANTAN, Mon. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that there were no basis for rumours that Indonesian illegal immigrants were responsible for the burning of five mosques in the State.

The Prime Minister said there was no evidence to confirm the rumours and moreover, these immigrants came to the State to work.

He also said it was unlikely that Indonesian Christians were involved in arson.

"If there are Christians (among the immigrants), they are only a small minority. And they certainly don't want to attract any attention or action against themselves," he added.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Home Minister, said police investigations indicated that a small group was involved. He said if it was a large group, then definitely someone would have blown the whistle on them.

(Deputy Home Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayub had said on Friday that the group was likely to number no more than four people.

(He said four men were seen in a car near the Pekan mosques and the same car was spotted near the Triang mosques.)

He said police were still trying to identify those involved.

They had received more information which might help them to track down the culprits, he added.

Arsonists set fire to two mosques in Pekan and three others near Triang early last week. Several community halls were also slightly damaged by fire.

Police are offering a \$50,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the culprits.