

U E500 AAE ENG MES
MAHATHIR-IMMIGRANTS R'R'R'
BM

SHAH ALAM, MARCH 16, (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD WANTS SOMETHING TO BE DONE TO KEEP ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS OUT OF SABAH. HE SAID THEIR NUMBER IN SABAH IS ALREADY ALMOST HALF OF THE STATE POPULATION.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID : +WE DO HAVE A PROBLEM IN SABAH AS THE NUMBER OF FILIPINOS AND INDONESIANS THERE IS ALMOST 50 PERCENT OF THE STATE POPULATION+.

+WE MUST KEEP THEM OUT,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS WHO APPROACHED HIM TO COMMENT ON SABAH STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY'S APPROVAL FOR A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGED ISSUANCE OF FALSE IDENTITY CARDS TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

EARLIER THE PRIME MINISTER OFFICIATED AT A GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY FOR PROTON'S ENGINE PARTS MACHINING AND TRANSMISSION ASSEMBLY PLANT HERE TODAY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHO IS HOME MINISTER SAID PENINSULAR MALAYSIA HAD A SIMILAR PROBLEM.-- MORE

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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE PROPOSED COMMISSION OF INQUIRY IS ONLY TO THE PROBE THE MATTER AT SABAH LEVEL.

SABAH DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER DATUK JOSEPH KURUP, WHO TABLED THE MOTION TO SET UP THE COMMISSION DURING THE ASSEMBLY SITTING YESTERDAY HAD REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE RULING PARTI BERSATU SABAH (PBS) HAD PROOF OF CERTAIN GROUPS TRYING TO REGISTER 60,000 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN THE STATE.

DATUK KURUP CLAIMED THAT THE GROUPS WERE ISSUING FAKE BLUE IDENTITY CARDS TO THE IMMIGRANTS SO THAT THEY COULD VOTE IN GENERAL ELECTION.-- BERNAMA

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