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Study

CALL FOR DETAILED STUDY ON RIOTING AT REHABILITATION CENTRES

KAMPUNG GAJAH, Feb 12 (Bernama) -- The Home Ministry will conduct a thorough study on Saturday's rioting and breakout at the Karangan dadah rehabilitation centre.

The deputy minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayob said action would be taken against anyone found guilty of wrongdoing, including the warden who is alleged to have mistreated the inmates by beating and hurling abuse at them.

He rejected claims that the military-style training that inmates had to undergo for six months at the centre sparked the rioting.

"There is a need for such training as it is effective in raising the inmates' physical and mental strength," he told reporters after breaking fast at the Kampung Makmur mosque in Sungai Galah, near here, last night.

He advised the inmates not to take the law into their hands when faced with problems.

Megat Junid said although the ministry had yet to receive a report on the incident, the government would not compromise when dealing with inmates found to have damaged government property.

In Saturday's incident at the Karangan centre, near Kulim, the inmates set fire to five blocks of buildings causing damage estimated at RM1.5 million.

Megat Junid called on wardens at all dadah rehabilitation centres to exercise patience in discharging their duties and not to do anything that might cause tension in the centres.

The Home Ministry, he said, had drawn up a systematic way of treating the inmates through the educational and psychological approaches, he said.

He added that some wardens probably adopted a rough approach towards the inmates.

Megat Junid said the Anti-Dadah Council, chaired by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, will meet soon to look into the problems in the rehabilitation centres with a view to overcoming them as soon as possible.

He also said that Muslim and Chinese inmates in the 45 after-care centres throughout the country would be given three days' leave to celebrate the Chinese New Year and Hari Raya Aidifitri.

However, they must first obtain a guarantee from their parents or guardians, stating that they would report back after the leave, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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