

15 JAN 1996

Inmates

REHABILITATION CENTRE PROBLEMS TO BE REFERRED TO PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 15 (Bernama) -- Deputy Home Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayub acknowledged today that overcrowding is among the reasons why many inmates flee from rehabilitation centres.

He said he would meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to inform him of the situation in these centres.

The meeting, which is expected to be held next week, would also be attended by Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Rahim Noor and Home Ministry Secretary-General Tan Sri Rahim Din, he said.

"After the case of the 48 inmates who ran away from the the Dadah Rehabilitation Centre in Rawang, I called up the Inspector-General of Police and the Secretary-General and discussed the problem," he told reporters after opening the 12th annual meeting of the Association of Malaysian Security Services, here.

"I don't blame the boys for running away from the rehabilitation centres. These places should be comfortable as they are meant to rehabilitate them," he added.

Megat Junid said his ministry took a serious view of the overcrowding in the centres as 10 of the 48 inmates who fled from the Rawang centre were infected with HIV.

He said the problem could not be overcome until the construction of eight new rehabilitation centres was completed.

Megat Junid also said that the government would fight the problem of identity card falsifications all the way, not just in Sabah but the whole country including the Klang Valley.

He said investigations and arrests would be made from time to time in dealing with the problem.

The deputy minister also said that his ministry would freeze the issuing of licences to new companies offering security services for three years beginning this year.

He said this was to enable the ministry to supervise the existing companies to ensure that they upgrade their services, discipline and staff.

-- Bernama