

04 DEC 1996

Zaleha-Violence

SOME 144 CASES REPORTED SINCE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT ENFORCED

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 4 (Bernama) -- A total of 144 cases have been reported since the Domestic Violence Act came into force last June, and two of the victims were men, National Unity and Community Development Minister Datin Paduka Hajjah Zaleha Ismail said here.

All these cases were handled by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), she said, adding that over 400 domestic violence cases, mostly those occurring in major towns, were also reported to the police.

Of the total, 24 victims sought interim protection order (IPO) from the court, she told a press conference here today.

She added that 21 victims were also given protection, 12 cases referred to the kadi, 86 cases given counselling, and five cases were told to live apart.

From the racial breakdown, Zaleha said 55 victims were Indians, 51 Malays, 34 Chinese and nine were other races.

She said Kuala Lumpur had the largest number of 46 cases, followed by Selangor, 42, Pulau Pinang, 18, and Kedah, 10, while other states had less than five cases each.

For IPO applications, she said Selangor had the highest number, 10, followed by Kuala Lumpur with seven cases, Pulau Pinang, four, and Melaka only three.

Zaleha explained that the objective of the act was to pacify a quarreling family and to prevent the problem from dragging.

On the fifth Meeting of Commonwealth Ministers Responsible for Women's Affairs in Trinidad and Tobago last week, she said Malaysia would act in concert with the action plan discussed at the meeting.

Malaysia had full support from all quarters, especially the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, to implement the plan.

Among the measures to be taken were the strengthening of the family institution, health, education and training, closer rapport with non-governmental organisations and other assistance for women, like getting more to be involved in the economic sector, she added.

-- BERNAMA

RHM AR AO