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Abdullah-Security

MALAYSIA TO IMPROVE SECURITY AT MISSIONS ABROAD

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 1 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will step up security at its missions overseas, especially in countries identified as having high security risk, Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

However, the hostage-taking incident in Lima would not affect Wisma Putra's procedure of posting officers overseas, he told reporters at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang, near here.

Abdullah said the improved security would not mean assigning personal bodyguards to Malaysian diplomats, except in special circumstances.

He had just accompanied Malaysian Ambassador to Peru, Encik Ahmad Mokhtar Selat, back following his release by Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement guerillas in Lima.

Abdullah said the Lima incident had provided valuable lessons to the government on the safety of its officers overseas.

He and Ahmad Mokhtar will submit a full report on the incident to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Ahmad Mokhtar was among hundreds of people held captive by the Marxist rebels after they stormed the Japanese ambassador's residence during a reception on Dec 17.

The rebels, who are demanding the release of about 400 jailed comrades, have freed most of the hostages in groups or individually, and only 83 remain in captivity. -- BERNAMA

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