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Ministry clarifies number of detainees

THE Foreign Ministry yesterday clarified that only six Filipinos were detained by the Marine Police in the Malaysian waters and not seven as claimed by the Philippines authorities.

Its Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said that based on initial investigations, there is no 10-year-old boy detained as alleged by the Philippines.

"It is also not an abduction case. However, the Philippines wants us to continue to investigate," he told reporters, before attending a dialogue with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the National Congress on Vision 2020 at Bandar Sunway, near Petaling Jaya yesterday.

He was asked to comment on a news report on Tuesday that seven Filipinos were abducted and detained by a Malaysian navy vessel on the tiny island of Mangsee in the Balabac group on April 15.

"Our police has done their job efficiently and I am sure that they will not want to take action that will jeopardise relations with the Philippines," Abdullah said.

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