

04 MAY 1998

Rahim - NGO

COPS KEEPING TRACK OF NGOs SPREADING LIES, SAYS IGP

KOTA KINABALU, May 4 (Bernama) -- Police are monitoring local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) suspected of providing false information on illegal immigrants in the country to the foreign media, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Noor said today.

"We know who they are and the individuals involved and we are monitoring them," he said.

The NGOs concerned have been spreading lies that the illegals were being mass-poisoned and killed at detention camps as carried by two British dailies recently, he said.

Speaking to reporters after attending a presentation of police bravery awards here, he however declined to elaborate merely saying only one or two NGOs were involved.

Asked on whether those running the NGOs involved have been questioned over the issue, he said: "You'll have to wait".

Yesterday Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also the Home Minister, said a local NGO had furnished false information on the treatment of illegal immigrants in the country to the The Observer and The Independent newspapers.

Abdul Rahim said: "Nowadays everybody wants to speak to the NGOs as if they are above the law and can do what they like."

"To us the NGOs are only interested in highlighting the faults of the authorities but keep quiet if the government does something good," he said.

Abdul Rahim said the NGOs had the preconceived view that the government was always imposing inhuman treatment.

"They didn't want to know how sharp weapons fell into the hands of a group of illegals...like those in Semenyih camp," he said.

In another development, Abdul Rahim directed the Sabah police to hold an internal inquiry following the recent arrest of a police inspector allegedly involved in distributing and selling cough mixtures in the state.

Abdul Rahim said the officer, attached to the state police anti-narcotics division, had been remanded.

"Disciplinary action will be taken against him for tarnishing the police's image," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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