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Tajol-ISA

ISA ONLY FOR THOSE SUSPECTED OF THREATENING NATIONAL SECURITY

BATU PAHAT, Oct 6 (Bernama) -- Deputy Home Minister Datuk Tajol Rosli Ghazali has said the government will only use the Internal Security Act (ISA) against those suspected of threatening national security.

He said the government actually do not like to use the ISA against anyone because foreign observers had an askewed view towards such actions.

"Actually the government is detaining them under the ISA to prevent demonstrations and riots in the country," he told reporters here yesterday.

Tajol Rosli said this when asked about the detention of former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim under the ISA.

He said so far the government only used the Act against those suspected of really threatening national security such as illegal immigrant smugglers and counterfeit operators.

He said the police had suggested to the government to use the ISA against those involved in cloning telephone codes and those involved in rumour mongering through the internet.

"However, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was very fair and did not want to use the ISA against them. That is why those caught for rumour mongering (recently) were only brought to court," he said.

On the deadline for the ongoing two-month-long amnesty for illegal aliens to leave the country legally, Tajol Rosli requested foreign missions especially those of Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand to advise their nationals to return to their homeland before the Oct 31 deadline.

"After that, the police and immigration will conduct large-scale operations to detect illegal immigrants and stiff penalties will be imposed," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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