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Lim-NGO

LIM QUESTIONS LOYALTY OF NGO GIVING FALSE INFO ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

KUALA LUMPUR, May 3 (Bernama) -- Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek today questioned the loyalty of a Malaysian non-governmental organisation (NGO) which is said to be feeding information to two British newspapers alleging that the authorities had mass poisoned and killed Indonesian illegal immigrants at the detention centres.

He said there was a hidden agenda behind the articles to discredit the country.

"Some form of action must be taken. If the people behind these articles believe such stupid articles then they must stupid themselves," he told reporters after opening a Caring and Sharing Programme jointly organised by the Buddhist Maha Vihara Temple and Pan Malaysian Pools Sdn Bhd here today.

He was commenting on a statement made by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad yesterday that the government was considering taking action against the NGO and "The Observer" and "The Independent" newspapers over the reports.

Lim said that contrary to the foreign reports, the government had been looking after the welfare of the illegal immigrants when they were in the country.

"The situation is actually the reverse, where we have to feed them when they are here," said Lim.

He added that Indonesian workers were even granted amnesty each year during the Hari Raya festival to enable them to go home without any action taken against them.

"This shows how caring we are of these people. Something must be wrong if people could come up with such a ridiculous articles," he added.

On allegations that some employers are excessively reducing salaries, he said employers should not act unilaterally and should instead discuss the matter with employees before carrying out the pay cut.

He also said that although there were no guidelines on the percentage of salary cut, employers were not allowed to indiscriminately cut salaries.

Salary cuts are only allowed if the company are genuinely facing financial problems, Lim said.

-- BERNAMA

HAK JK