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MALAYSIAN GIVES FAIR TREATMENT TO DETAINEES, SAYS SENATOR

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 1 (Bernama) -- Detainees in Malaysia are treated fairly and action will be taken against any policeman who uses force on them, a senator said today.

Senator Yim Chee Chong said the Criminal Procedure Code stipulated that police must not use apply force on detainees or threaten them while recording their cautioned statements for use as evidence in courts.

If there was any element of force or threat, then the statement would not be allowed to be adduced in court, he said at the Dewan Rakyat during debate on the Futures Trading Industry (Amendment) Bill.

"But there are cases of police personnel violating the law, or ignoring the law, by beating and threatening detainees," said Yim, a lawyer who has handled criminal cases.

Yim also recalled the assurance given by the previous Inspector-General of Police, Tun Hanif Omar, that members of the police force, irrespective of their ranks, would have action taken against if they used force on detainees.

Yim also called on local journalists to counter the false news dished out by the foreign media.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad not only fought for Malaysia but also for other countries that were poor, small and exploited.

"Because of this the foreign major powers don't like the PM and use the current economic slowdown in this country to bring him down," he said.

Meanwhile, Senator Datuk Zainuddin Maidin said there was a need to display greater confidence in measures taken by the government recently.

This is because many of the measures taken had been met with reservations and misunderstood by the people.

Zainuddin also said that not all foreign newspapers had a passive view on the measures taken by Malaysia, and some journalists sympathised with this country.

This was especially so in the case of newsppaers that had a better understanding of the measures, such as the International Herald Tribune.

-- BERNAMA

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