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Abdullah-Iraq

MALAYSIA REITERATES CALL FOR UN EMERGENCY SESSION ON IRAQ ATTACK

PULAU PINANG, Dec 18 (Bernama) -- Malaysia reiterated its stand today that the UN Security Council must convene an emergency session to discuss yesterday's air strikes on Iraq by the United States and Britain.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the meeting should be held soon as the Security Council must give immediate attention to the attacks, which left five dead and 30 injured.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday called for the emergency session to discuss the situation and to bring a stop to the military action against Iraq.

Abdullah also said Malaysians in Iraq particularly the embassy staff in Baghdad had been moved to Amman, the capital city of Jordan.

"They are safe. However, the Malaysian Embassy in Iraq will help evacuate them to a more safer place if they wanted to," he told reporters after witnessing the signing of an agreement to pay compensation to residents of Batu Gantung by the Pulau Pinang Turf Club.

Turf club president Datuk Goh Eng Tong signed on behalf of the club while the residents were represented by five representatives.

Speaking at the function, Abdullah said landowners intending to develop their properties must consider the welfare of the people living in the area particularly their housing needs.

He said they must be adequately compensated as they have stayed in the area for a long time.

He also called on employers to look into their employees' welfare particularly their housing woes.

It would be grossly unfair if employers merely focused their attention to reaping profits but gave scant attention to the needs of their workers, he added.

A total of 201 residents will receive about RM5.1 million compensation from the club, which will build workers' quarters and stables on the land occupied by the residents.

-- BERNAMA

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