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MIC-Police

MIC WANTS POLICE TO PROBE SHOOT-OUTS

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 8 (Bernama) -- The MIC today urged the police to investigate the death of 11 suspected criminals, including an MIC division Youth chief, in separate shoot-outs with the police recently, saying "we want justification".

It made the call following a three-hour MIC Central Working Committee (CWC) meeting chaired by party president Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu at the party headquarters here.

Samy Vellu told a news conference later that he had raised the matter at yesterday's Cabinet meeting.

According to him, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also the Home Minister, said he would look into the matter.

"We want an in-depth investigation to be carried out by the police." Samy Vellu said.

"In these particular cases, we want the police to give us a clearer picture because we have received telephone calls and letters from people who asked that the matter be properly investigated," he said.

He was referring to last Saturday's shoot-out with police in Tumpat, Kelantan in which six men aged between 21 and 38 were killed.

The men who were travelling in a van had apparently refused to stop and started to shoot at a police party which tried to intercept them.

The dead men were identified as Tanah Merah MIC division Youth chief S.P.Rajendran, 37; Tanah Merah MIC member S.Ravi, 33; Ladang Sako MIC member S.Ramachandran, 37; Kuala Lipis hospital attendant K.R.Subramaniam, 38; Kelantan Waterworks Department employee Ganesan (no initial), 28; and Kuala Lipis District Council parking attendant Shanmugam, 21.

A day earlier, police raided a house at Taman Sungai Besi here and shot dead five people, including two women, suspected of involvement in the kidnapping of the 11-year-son of former Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Mohammad Taib.

The dead men and women were identified as N.Selvamalar, 31, who was eight months' pregnant; her husband P.Gunasegaran, 32; R.Anbarasan, 39; M.Jeganathan, 24; and M.Logeswary, 19.

Selangor Chief Police Officer Datuk Kamaruddin Hamzah said initial probe indicated that Selvamalar could have been hit by a stray bullet during the shoot-out because she was found dead in a small section of the house.

"The fact that a pregnant woman was shot dead has raised many questions and sympathy from a lot of people. As for the six people shot dead in Kelantan, their families met me and told me that they are just ordinary people with no criminal records," said Samy Vellu, who is also Works Minister.

Samy Vellu hoped that police investigation into the two incidents would shed some light.

"There must be a very in-depth inquiry... It is not one or two people but half a dozen," he said referring to the shoot-out in Tumpat.

"But this does not mean that I am accusing the police. We know the police have been professional in their duties but in these cases, questions have to be answered," he said adding that this was not the first time that the MIC had come across such cases.

Samy Vellu said he would raise the matter again at the next Cabinet meeting.

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