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Police-Immigrants

POLICE IDENTIFIED INSTIGATORS AMONG ACEHNESE IMMIGRANTS

PULAU PINANG, April 30 (Bernama) -- Police have identified two senior leaders of a group of Acehese illegal immigrants who have been instigating other immigrants to oppose the government policy, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Noor said today.

He said they would play innocent after instigating other illegal immigrants to oppose the deportation policy of the government.

The police wanted them to stop their activities or stern action would be taken against them, he told reporters here.

He said they came to Malaysia in search of livelihood and should respect local laws or as the Malays said "Dimana bumi dipijak, di situlah langit dijunjung".

Abdul Rahim, however, refused to provide more details on the leaders of the group.

He said the government did not make distinction between Indonesian illegal immigrants from Aceh province and other illegal immigrants.

"They are not political refugees and they are just like other illegal immigrants," he said.

Abdul Rahim also described as journalistic vandalism allegations by some major British newspapers that Malaysian authorities had mass-poisoned Indonesian illegal immigrants in detention camps with the intention of souring relations between Malaysia and Indonesia.

But he said there were no news reports when the government helped a boatload of illegal immigrants from drowning at sea after their boat capsized while on their way to Malaysia.

Abdul Rahim said a lot of money was spent to rescue them and make arrangement to bury the dead.

"If we want to kill them, why do we need to poison them? We have power in our own country. But records show that thousands of illegal immigrants had been sent home safely," he said.

He said the foreign media also never tried to find out what caused the riots in detention camps and where the illegal immigrants got accessed to weapons used to inflict injuries on several police personnel.

In this connection, he said the police fully supported Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement that the allegations which appeared in the Observer and The Independent were unfounded and as a way to cover up their role in reducing Indonesia to a state of poverty.

-- BERNAMA

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