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Tajol-`Reformasi'

`REFORMASI' SUPPORTERS CRITICISED FOR CALLING ON US INTERVENTION

JELI, Nov 20 (Bernama) -- Deputy Home Minister Datuk Tajol Rosli Ghazali today lashed at supporters of the `Reformasi' movement for calling on the United States to intervene and arrest Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad following the current political development in the country.

He said as Malaysians, the protesters should not ask foreign powers to intervene in the country's internal affairs as the people could use their power through the democratic process, that is by choosing the government through elections.

He denied that the government had detained any individual under the Internal Security Act (ISA) on political issues, adding that the arrests of several people previously were made under the powers of the police provided in the ISA.

He was speaking to reporters after attending the 37th Rela Day celebration at the state level officiated by Second Finance Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed, here today.

Tajol Rosli also said that Malaysia had always given priority to nationals of neighbouring countries Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines in meeting the needs for foreign workers as a means of supporting them in the face of economic problems in their respective countries.

He said the assurance was reemphasised when he went to Jakarta on a four-day visit last week when Indonesia appealed that Malaysia gave priority to their nationals to work here.

"We do give them priority, all we are asking is that they don't interfere in the political and internal problems while working here, and if possible, their government should also do likewise," he added.

Tajol said Malaysia was willing to assist Indonesia during the economic crisis in the republic which resulted in 15 million Indonesians being unemployed.

He said that in helping the neighbouring countries, Malaysia hoped that these countries respected Malaysia's stand and decisions by not interfering in Malaysia's political issues and internal affairs.

At the ceremony, Mustapa who is also the Member of Parliament for Jeli handed over guns to 20 members of the State Rela.

-- BERNAMA

RAR AO