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DPM: Police not to be blamed because of Rahim

KOTA KINABALU, Fri. - The entire police force should not be blamed because of former Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Rahim Noor's alleged assault of former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

He said the issue should not be raised repeatedly as it was not the intention of the police force to behave in such a way.

"We cannot blame the whole police force just because of one incident. His (Rahim's) action is not one which represents the force. "We have read why the incident happened and he will be brought to court," he said when asked to elaborate on continuous negative comments on the force.

He said he still heard negative comments and sometimes read such reports in the Internet on the matter. Abdullah, who is also Home Minister, said the alleged assault was not the way the police operated.

"That is not the way of the police and the police do not like such actions. But when something like that happens, it is easier for people to say all sorts of things about the police," he said.

Abdullah said there was no perfect service and that mistakes were bound to occur. He hoped the people would understand it was the intention of all, including Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the Government, to enhance the image of the police.

Abdullah was speaking to newsmen after meeting with some 800 Sabah Police Contingent members at the Sabah Police Headquarters in Kepyayan, near here today.

Earlier in his speech, Abdullah stressed the need for members of the police force to be people-friendly when carrying out law enforcement duties.

He, however, added that the police sometimes had to take action against violent people and this was why police officers need to be strict.

"Be strict, but do not be rude. Sometimes we tend to say things ... in carrying out your duty. Do not be rude as it will make matters worse. And during riots, you may have to come down hard on rioters, but do not resort to brutality," he said.

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