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Abdullah-Letter

HOME MINISTRY INVESTIGATES PUBLICATION OF ANWAR'S LETTER

PULAU PINANG, May 30 (Bernama) -- The Home Ministry is investigating the publication of an open letter, purportedly written by imprisoned former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, in a weekly tabloid.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi said he was assured by the prison authorities that there would be no more such letters since it was against prisons regulations.

"What we want to know is whether the letter was smuggled out or written by Anwar's visitors. That we have yet to confirm," he told reporters after a national level rally and presentation of Persatuan Seni Silat Lincah Malaysia certificates at Padang Kota Lama, here.

He was asked to comment on the publication of the letter in the May 31 issue of "Eksklusif" in which Anwar was said to have sworn to continue his struggle to uphold justice and fight corruption and cronyism even from behind bars.

Anwar is serving a six-year jail term in Sungai Buluh prison on four counts of corruption.

On request by the police to increase the number of General Operations Force (PGA) battalions from 11 to 20, Abdullah who is also Home Minister said the matter would be given due consideration.

Internal Security and Public Order deputy director Datuk Mohd Yusof Said had said in Tawau yesterday that the increase was necessary given the mounting tasks but no enough personnel.

On plan by the MIC to send a memorandum to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on monthly wages for plantation workers, he said it would be up to the financial capability of the private sector.

"We will wait what (MIC president) Datuk Seri Samy wants to do," he said.

Earlier in his speech, Abdullah called on the people to emulate the spirit of patriotisme and loyalty among members of the "silat lincah" of the Malay martial arts.

He said that he was amazed at the way the association inculcate patriotisme and high discipline among the members.

Such spirit should be present in all young Malaysians if Malaysia were to become a developed and successful country, he said.

Abdullah was also happy with their support to the leadership of Dr Mahathir and the government's efforts to fight social ills like drug abuse.

Some 5,000 "silat lincah" exponents from throughout the country attended the rally.

--BERNAMA

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