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Abdullah-Societies

DPM ORDERS REGISTRAR TO ENSURE SOCIETIES SUBMIT REPORTS

KUALA LUMPUR, July 11 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has ordered for consistent monitoring of societies and associations through annual reports they are required to submit to the Registrar of Societies under the law.

This way the registrar could detect digression from the original objectives of the societies and associations concerned, said Abdullah, who is also the Home Minister.

He was approached by reporters whether the government was planning to tighten legislations governing societies as part of measures to curb spread of deviationist groups.

Earlier, he presented excellent service awards to Home Ministry staff at the Tunku Abdul Rahman Memorial auditorium here today.

While in the beginning societies stuck to their original objectives, their later leaders could influence them to deviate, he said.

" It is what happens later that brings the undesirable consequences. This happens when the later leaders have own agenda and different ideas," he said.

Abdullah said the Registrar of Societies is empowered, among other things, to issue show cause letters why societies failing to submit annual reports should not be deregistered.

"Perhaps it's good to review existing rules whether they are already adequate in terms of actions and procedures," he said emphasising that legislations were already in force prohibiting anyone or any quarters from spreading deviationist teachings.

On action against government employees involved in deviationist groups, Abdullah said there were several options.

"Since this is a normal disciplinary matter, I leave it to the civil service disciplinary committee to determine what action is appropriate," he said.

One option would be to offer civil servants involved counselling and guidance to repent and return to the right path, he said.

On the Gerik arms heists and the Sauk hostage-taking episode, Abdullah said he shared Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's concern that some quarters would exploit the issue for selfish ends.

The Sauk episode ended last Thursday without bloodbath when the 27 armoury raiders surrendered after executing two of four hostages.

Dr Mahathir expressed concern that certain quarters would blow the issue out of proportion to gain sympathy and capitalise on it to create chaos in the country.

At the function, which was attended by deputy home ministers Datuk Chor Chee Heung and Datuk Zainal Abidin Zin and ministry Secretary-General Datuk Jamaluddin Ahmad Damanhuri, 56 ministry staff received excellent service awards.

-- BERNAMA

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