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Najib-GBC

NO OBJECTIONS IF LOG SMUGGLING ALLEGATION RAISED IN GBC MEETING

KUALA LUMPUR, June 26 (Bernama) -- Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has no objections if an Indonesian allegation that Malaysian army personnel were involved in smuggling logs from Kalimantan is raised in the General Border Committee (GBC) meeting.

The next Malaysia-Indonesia GBC meeting is expected to be held at the end of the year or early next year.

Najib, who is co-chairman of the GBC, said the allegation had never been raised specifically in the past.

"We have informally agreed, however, that the GBC be used as a forum for the exchange of information and to discuss non-military type threats faced," he said when met after welcoming Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on his return from Egypt at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang today.

Dr Mahathir was in Egypt for the G15 summit.

The general secretary of the Indonesian Forestry and Plantations Department, Suprito, recently alleged that Malaysian army personnel were involved in smuggling logs from Indonesia based on the purported recovery of bullet shells and food wrappings with the "Angkatan Tentera Malaysia" markings.

Najib said Malaysia has denied the Indonesian allegation.

He said the Malaysian position was conveyed to Indonesia by the Malaysian Armed Forces chief of staff who visited Indonesia recently.

-- BERNAMA

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