

19 JUL 2001

Chor-Black Metal

"BLACK METAL" ACTIVITIES UNDER CONTROL, SAYS DEPUTY MINISTER

PETALING JAYA, July 19 (Bernama) -- The activities of the "Black Metal" occult groups do not pose a serious security threat yet, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Chor Chee Heung said today.

"The negative activities of their followers are not at an alarming stage yet and have been contained by the police who are monitoring the situation," he said.

Many of the Black Metal members were harmless and just following the styles and fashion trends of their western pop culture heroes, he told reporters after the presentation of the Guinness Effort Award to Sgt Abdul Manaf Hamid here.

Newspapers recently reported that the Black Metal groups propagated an anti-God philosophy and indulged in free sex and satanic rites.

They were said to be active in northern peninsular Malaysia and recruited mostly Malay teenagers, including students.

On the crackdown on pirated video compact discs, he said the authorities hoped to eradicate the menace, especially pornographic VCDs, by 2005.

Last Saturday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad expressed concern over the widespread distribution of pornographic materials as this has led to moral decadence and untoward incidents.

Manaf was picked as the 185th recipient of the award for his courageous effort in apprehending four robbers two months ago.

In that incident, Manaf was riding his motorcycle when he spotted four men fleeing on two motorcycles after robbing the 7-Eleven outlet in Shah Alam at about midnight.

He immediately gave chase and after five kilometres of pursuit the robbers abandoned their motorcycles at a construction site and summoned for help.

The robbers were joined by 10 of their friends and they confronted Manaf.

"I feared for my life at that moment but the sense of duty prevailed. I radioed for backup which arrived five minutes later," Manaf told reporters.

All the four robbers were arrested.

At the ceremony, Manaf also received a commendation letter from Selangor Deputy CPO Datuk Johar Che Din.

-- BERNAMA

LYM AHH YBY