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Najib-Abu Sayyaf

MALAYSIA NOT A HAVEN FOR ABU SAYYAF GROUP

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 9 (Bernama) -- The government will not allow the Abu Sayyaf guerillas from the southern Philippines to turn Malaysia and its waters into a refugee camp or a haven for the group.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today the government would deploy troops to keep them away if the Abu Sayyaf group made any attempt to enter the country.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo had agreed to step up military cooperation, especially in coordinating surveillance of the border areas, he said.

They had also agreed to exchange information on any move by the group to enter Malaysian territory, he told a media conference after performing the ground-breaking ceremony for the housing project for military personnel in the Kalan Valley at the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) station in Subang near here.

On the militant Kumpulan Mujahidin Malaysia (KMM), Najib said military intervention was not needed now because the police were capable of handling the situation under the various laws.

However, the military would cooperate with the police in monitoring the activities of the KMM and would step in if needed.

On housing for military personnel in the Klang Valley, Najib said 6,963 units costing RM1.5 billion would be built for the various ranks in seven locations in the Klang Valley and were expected to be completed by 2004.

Six of the locations are the Kementah Camp in Jalan Padang Tembak, Pacific Camp in Jalan Ampang, Sungai Besi Camp, Wardieburn Camp in Setapak, RMAF Camp Subang and Jalan U-Thant.

Najib said the project in Jalan Cochrane had been cancelled because it was found to be unsuitable and a new site would be identified soon.

Of the total units, 23 per cent or 1,612 units were under the replacement programme while the rest were new units.

"Many of the housing units can no longer be used and it is not viable to repair them. So 1,612 new units will be given to the current occupants," he said.

Besides basic amenities and recreation grounds the projects would also have cyber centres to enable the children of servicemen to hone their computer skills, he added.

The projects will be jointly developed by Syarikat Perumahan Negara Berhad and Lembaga Tabung Angkatan Tentera Sdn Bhd.

-- BERNAMA

DC KHY PR JK