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Syed Hamid-evidence

POLICE SATISFIED WITH EVIDENCE FOR DETENTION, SAYS SYED HAMID

SEPANG, April 13 (Bernama) -- The police decided to detain seven people, including several opposition leaders, under the Internal Security Act (ISA) after they were satisfied with the evidence and information gathered, said Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar today.

He said that according to the law, the police must be satisfied with the evidence before they could arrest any individual.

"Clearly the police have been monitoring them and gathering information. The police will not act as they like without strong evidence," he told reporters while waiting for the arrival of the Crowned Prince of Dubai, Sheikh Mohamed Rashid Al-Maktoum at the Bunga Raya VIP Room, KL International Airport (KLIA) here.

Syed Hamid was commenting on call by the opposition to the police to present evidence that those detained under the ISA had planned a violent demonstration.

They are Parti Keadilan Nasional (Keadilan) Youth leader Mohamad Ezam Mohd Noor, Keadilan vice-president Chua Tian Chang, reformasi activist Hishamuddin Rais, Jemaah Islamiah Malaysia president Saari Sungib, Keadilan Youth vice-chief N.Gobalakrishnan, Free Anwar Campaign director Raja Petra Raja Kamarudin and Keadilan Youth exco member Abdul Ghani Haroon.

He said the police were aware that those detained were from the same group which had previously planned and hold demonstrations that disrupted public peace.

"Certainly we can't just sit and wait for public disorder before we take action," he said, adding that the ISA was used as a preventive measure.

On the visit of the Dubai Crowned Prince from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Syed Hamid said it was a one day unofficial visit where Sheikh Mohamed Rashid would be given a tour of Putrajaya and Cyberjaya.

Tonight, he will be hosted to a dinner reception by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Dr Mahathir will visit UAE on April 26 to 28 April where he will present a keynote address at a seminar on "Meeting The Challenges of 21st Century."

--BERNAMA

MHI AHH ABG