

STAR 20 JAN 2002  
Too many incidents,

says  
Zainal

KOTA KINABALU: Deputy Home Minister Datuk Zainal Abidin Zain said yesterday that it is necessary to consider Indonesians as a last choice for foreign labour because they have caused many troubles in the country.

“We are sad that there have been a number of incidents where Indonesians were trouble-makers in our country. This (Nilai incident) is not the first time,” he told reporters after leading a group of national Pemadam members for a visit to the Sabah General Operations Force battalion headquarters here.

He said there were many examples of such troubles, citing the recent illegal immigrants’ riot in Pekan Nenas, Johor as an example.

Zainal said such actions by foreign workers could undermine investor confidence and erode the country’s productivity.

He said this when asked to comment on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad’s statement that the Government might have no choice but to give last preference to Indonesian workers following the Nilai incident where some 500 of them went on a rampage after 16 workers were caught for drug abuse.

“We have no ill intentions against the Indonesians but we do not like the way they blatantly ignore our laws,” he added.