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## Task force probes rape allegation

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KOTA KINABALU, Mon. - Several people, including officials, at the Kota Kinabalu illegal immigrants detention centre, had their statement's recorded yesterday by a task force set up by the police to probe into allegations of rape and molest made by a 13-year-old Filipina.

Members of the task force, headed by Assistant Commissioner Takbir Ahmad, spent several hours at the repatriation centre in Menggatal, about 25km from here, where the girl was allegedly raped.

The team was accompanied by several officials from the Federal Special Task Force (FSTF), including its enforcement chief Assistant Commissioner Sidin Karim.

Sidin, when contacted, said the FSTF had given its full co-operation to the task force.

"There is nothing to hide; it is good that an investigation is being carried out to determine the truth," he said.

On Thursday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad ordered a probe into the allegations and assured the Philippine Government that action would be taken against those responsible if it the allegations were found to be true.

The girl, who returned to Bongao in the Philippine island of Tawi-Tawi after being deported on a Philippine naval ship on Tuesday, told Philippine social workers that Malaysian "jail guards" raped her.

Sabah Commissioner of Police Datuk Ramli Yusuff had confirmed that the girl was detained at the repatriation centre for more than a month between July and August.

He said police were still waiting for the Philippine police to send the girl back to Sabah so that an investigation could be carried out.