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Police-Filipina

SPECIAL TEAM TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGED RAPE ON FILIPINA

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 6 (Bernama) -- The federal CID at Bukit Aman has formed a special team to investigate allegations that a 13-year-old Filipina had been raped at a detention centre in Sabah.

CID Director Datuk Salleh Mat Som said the special team would be led by the Principal Assistant Director of CID (Special Investigations), ACP Takbir Ahmad Nazir.

"We take the progress of the investigation very seriously," he told reporters after holding a discussion with the Consul-General at the Philippine Embassy here, Luiz T.Cruz, at the federal police headquarters at Bukit Aman, today.

He said the investigation officer for the special team was DSP Yahya Ramli who was being assisted by officers from the Bukit Aman Legal and Sexual Crimes Division.

Salleh said the team would carry out detailed investigation on the alleged rape to ascertain whether it had any truth.

"We are focusing on the report from the team. We have to confirm whether it (the alleged rape) was true or otherwise," he said, adding that the investigation was being carried out under Section 376 of the Penal Code for raping a minor.

He said police hoped to get the cooperation of the Philippine government especially in tracing the victim who was alleged to have been raped and to identify those involved in the incident.

Salleh said according to information received, the girl, identified as Jawina Song, was now in Zamboanga City.

Asked about the time frame for the completion of the investigation, he said police hoped it would be completed as soon as possible as what the Philippine government had hoped for.

"We hope the investigation will be completed quickly and believe that the Philippines also want it that way," he said.

Salleh said the note of complaint on detention centres in Sabah by the Philippine government mission led by presidential advisor, Nur Jaafar, would now become the police official report and it would be investigated.

Two days ago, Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo sent a letter to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad expressing her regrets at the allegations of sexual harassment by members of the Malaysian security forces on a Philippine girl at a temporary detention centre in Kota Kinabalu.

Yesterday, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia would investigate the claim and those who had committed the crime would be taken to court.

Meanwhile, Takbir told reporters that the Bukit Aman special team was set up to investigate the rape, which was alleged to have involved Sabah police personnel, in a fair and independent manner.

"We want to make sure it is fair and independent," he said.

Following the alleged rape, Sabah Police Headquarters had also set up a special investigation team.

Takbir also hoped that the special investigation team could bring the alleged rape victim to Malaysia so that further investigation could be carried out.

-- BERNAMA

MHI AHH AO