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`Unruly foreign workers can scare away investors'

KOTA KINABALU, Sat. - Foreign workers who cause trouble in the country could scare away investors, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Zainal Abidin Zin said today.

Commenting on a riot by some 450 Indonesian workers of a textile factory in Nilai on Thursday, Zainal Abidin said they had failed to respect the laws of the country.

"Their actions may scare away investors. We are not against Indonesians, but we do not like those who do not respect our laws," he said.

Zainal Abidin, who is also Pemadam president, said this to newsmen after leading members from the non-governmental organisation on a visit to the Sabah police headquarters in Kepayan.

The workers attacked policemen and destroyed vehicles after 16 of their colleagues were detained by police when they tested positive for drugs.

Zainal Abidin also said some foreign workers here were drug addicts and this could affect their productivity.

"If we have them (drug addicts), production will decline but at the same time, if we do not have them, our productivity will also decline."

He added that the Home Ministry would abide by a suggestion made by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that Indonesia will be the last country which Malaysia will look to when seeking foreign labour after the incident.

"Our Prime Minister has always wanted to see people from neighbouring countries getting jobs here but he is disappointed at what happened."

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