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Police-Filipina

MANILA TO SEND BACK 13-YEAR-OLD M'SIAN GIRL ON MONDAY

KOTA KINABALU, Dec 7 (Bernama) -- Manila is expected to send back a 13-year-old Malaysian girl on Monday to facilitate investigation into her claim that she was raped in a temporary immigration holding centre in Sabah.

Sabah Commissioner of Police Datuk Pahlawan Ramli Yusuff said the Philippine police had contacted their Malaysian counterpart to finalise the arrangement for her return.

"The girl will be put under the care of the Welfare Department," he told reporters here after attending the Hari Raya Aidilfitri open house hosted by the Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Sakaran Dandai and consort Toh Puan Hajah Siti Rukaiyah Panglima Abdullah at their residence in Likas.

He said the case would be investigated under Section 376 of the Penal Code.

The girl, who was without document, was deported to the Philippines in July this year along with other illegal immigrants.

The alleged rape of the girl, who was then thought to be a Filipina, prompted President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to write a letter to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad asking the government to investigate the case.

The Malaysian police subsequently set up a special team to probe into the case and found out, in the course of the investigation, that the girl was actually a Malaysian.

Asked whether the parents would also be questioned, Ramli said:

"Yes...we will call everybody."

On the alleged illegal logging activities in Kalabakan forest in Tawau as claimed by the Sabah Environmental Protection Association Ramli said the police had yet to receive a report on the matter.

On Thursday, Chief Minister Datuk Chong Kah Kiat asked those who had the information on the illegal logging activities to lodge a police report.

"The police are waiting for further information and we will act upon receiving them," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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