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Sabah-Rape

SABAH POLICE INVESTIGATING ALLEGED RAPE OF FILIPINA BY COP

By Muammar Kamaruddin

KOTA KINABALU, Sept 5 (Bernama) -- Police are investigating the alleged rape of a 13-year-old Filipina by a policeman during her detention here, Sabah Police Commissioner Datuk Ramly Yusuff said today.

The rape claim has outraged Philippine President Gloria Arroyo and she has written to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed asking him to immediately act on the complaint.

Ramly said police had set up a special team under DSP Hazani Ghazali to investigate the claim.

"The investigation is ongoing at the moment. We are getting assistance from our counterpart in the Phillipines to send the girl to our country so that we can take further action," he said at a joint press conference by Malaysian officials and a Philippine fact-finding team.

The 10-member team headed by presidential adviser Nur Jaafar, which returned home today, were here to check on the alleged ill-treatment of Filipino illegal immigrants awaiting deportation.

Asked by a Filipino reporter on the need for the 13-year-old girl to come here for investigation, Ramli said this was to facilitate the identification of her rapist.

Nur Jaafar, replying to Malaysian journalists, said: "On our level, investigation is being made by our law enforcement agency.

"We are very grateful for his (Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Chong Kah Kiat) action. In spite of the absence of evidence, he directed the police commissioner to conduct investigation immediately."

Under normal procedure, a person must lodge a report to the police first before an investigation can be embarked.

-- BERNAMA

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