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M'SIA LOOKING INTO ALLEGATION OF MISTREATMENT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

KULIM, Aug 29 (Bernama) -- The government has started an investigation into the allegation by President Gloria Arroyo that Filipino illegals awaiting deportation were mistreated.

Deputy Home Minister Datuk Zainal Abidin Zin said the ministry convened a meeting yesterday on the allegation.

The ministry would reserve its comment on the allegation pending the result of the investigation in two or three days' time, he told reporters after opening Family Friendly Day for inmates of a drug rehabilitation centre here today.

He said the ministry would give its official reply if there was a request from the Philippine government.

Zainal Abidin also said the National Association Against Drug Abuse (Pemadam) would hold a three-day colloquim at the Genting Highlands from Sept 26.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to present a keynote address at the colloquim.

-- BERNAMA

AP/MAN ABG