

21 NOV 2002  
Abdullah-Attacks  
US WARNING NOT NEW, SAYS ABDULLAH

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 21 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today that the warning issued by the United States that Malaysia could be hit by attacks like the bombing that killed more than 180 people at a nightclub on Indonesia's Bali island last month is not new.

"The warning issued by the United States is not new as several Western governments have been issuing similar travel advisory since the Sept 11 attacks last year," he said in a statement issued by his office.

The US yesterday warned that attacks similar to the Bali bombing could take place in other Southeast Asian nations including Malaysia.

The State Department said that it was worried that the Jemaah Islamiah (JI) could target Westerners outside Indonesia.

The Department also reiterated its concern about the possibility of attacks by the Philippine-based Abu Sayyaf militant Muslim group in Sabah and urged US citizens visiting the islands or coastal regions of eastern Sabah to exercise "extreme caution."

Abdullah, who is also Home Minister, said that in fact there have been reports of alleged terrorists and Al-Qaeda members being arrested all over the world including Hong Kong, Singapore and Australia.

He said that Malaysia have taken firm preventive actions and arrested those linked to Kumpulan Militan Malaysia (KMM) and JI.

"But as the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has pointed out, it is unsafe to visit some of these same countries that are issuing such advisory about Southeast Asia.

"We note that there have been racist attacks and violence against non-whites in many of these countries.

"In comparison, Malaysia have been a very safe country," Abdullah said.

He said that Malaysia had been in the forefront fighting against terrorism and would continue to give full support in the war on terror.

"But we want to emphasise that no country in the world is safe from attacks by demented terrorists, whether they are terrorists who justify their action on ideological, religious or ethnic grounds," he said.

Abdullah said that as far as the Malaysian government was concerned, "we are determined to continue taking all necessary security measures to ensure that our country remains safe and secure."

-- BERNAMA  
RZS AHH RM