

Surrender now, illegal army told

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Or we'll hunt you all down, says Pak Lah

BY SHAHANA AZ HABIB

KUALA LUMPUR: The 8,000 members of the illegal Federal Special Forces of Malaysia should leave the movement and turn themselves in, said Home Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

He said he hoped the members would surrender because they knew now that the movement was illegal and it was a criminal offence to be in it.

"All members are going to be investigated. It will be a very comprehensive and intensive investigation. So I hope members know that what they did is a criminal offence and that they would give themselves up.

"Their 'work' does not bring any good to this country," he said yesterday after attending the opening of the Gerakan *Daya Wawasan* organised by the Rural Development Ministry.

Abdullah, who is Deputy Prime Minister, said so far police investigations did not show that the group had links with any other groups.

On Thursday, police busted a group that called itself the Federal Special

Forces of Malaysia and arrested 24 people including its leader, a "four-star general" Nor Azami Ahmad Ghazali who aspired to be the sixth Prime Minister after Abdullah.

The group "sold" army ranks to members for prices ranging from RM8,000 to RM25,000 and was believed to have collected about RM64mil from the sales of these ranks to the 8,000 or so people it recruited as members.

Nor Azami had claimed he was the "N" in the RAHMAN formula - a popularly believed formula that says the names of the Prime Ministers in the country would follow the letters RAHMAN, starting with -Tunku Abdul Rahman. Tun Abdul Razak, Tun Hussein Onn and Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Abdullah, who takes over from Dr Mahathir in October, is said to be the "A" and as the formula goes, after him, the next in line would be someone with a name starting with the letter "N".

Asked why people were so easily duped just by someone who claimed he would be Prime Minister, Abdullah

said: "The RAHMAN formula. Sometimes Malaysians are so gullible and they believe others so easily. They shouldn't be so easily convinced."

Earlier, at a press conference after the same function, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad described the group as "crazy".

"There are crazy people in this country. Maybe they are inspired by all sorts of nonsense and they *buat benda macam itu* (do things like that). I think they are mad. He wants to be Prime Minister with his own special forces," he said.

The police had said they would go on a nationwide hunt to track down members of the illegal group. The group had claimed to be former members of the Emergency Action Force of Malaysia and named a prince as its deputy commander.

In Pekan, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said he did not know whether there was anyone in the army that was involved as the matter was still under investigation.

He said it was illegal for the public to wear army uniforms and that only the force could supply them.