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Rais-Anwar

POLICE SHOULD INVESTIGATE CLAIMS BY AUSSIE TV, SAYS DR RAIS

PETALING JAYA, Oct 24 (Bernama) -- The police should investigate claims by an Australian television report that the Washington-based International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT), of which Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was one of its three directors, had been accused in the United States of funding terrorist activities including the support of the Islamic Jihad, said Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim.

"The police should find out whether there is any truth to the claims. If it's true, only then should the anti-terrorist or security laws be applied against those concerned," he said after attending the Deepavali open house hosted by MIC Deputy President Datuk S. Subramaniam here today.

The report by SBS TV's 'Dateline' programme also stated that IIIT had sent a large sum of money, believed to be about RM300,000, to Anwar's daughter, Nurul Izzah, as scholarship even though the amount exceeded what was required for her education.

'Dateline' also linked the International Free Anwar Campaign (IFAC) to Al-Qaeda financiers, naming Melbourne-based IFAC leader Rahim Ghouse and his business partner, Dr Wan Hasni Sulaiman, of Kuala Lumpur, as having had business dealings with Sheikh Yassin Al-Qadi, accused in the US of funding terrorist activities and declared a terrorist by Singapore.

"It could also be an international attempt to smear Malaysia's good name," said Dr Rais.

To a question, he said he suspected certain anti-Southeast Asian groups in the United States or other countries had a hand in the report.

Dr Rais was also asked about the call by Jewish lobby in the United States to investors and tourists not to invest and visit Malaysia in protest against the speech by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit last week regarding the Jews.

He said if there was such a boycott, Malaysia could lodge a complaint and seek justice with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) through the Fair Trade Practice.

"Malaysia is not short of legal options to take should it occurs," he said, adding that it proved again that what Dr Mahathir said about the Jews was true.

-- BERNAMA

MOT NER JM ABG