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Abdullah-PKPM

POLICE TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATION OF MINISTERS' INVOLVEMENT IN PKPM

PUTRAJAYA, Aug 4 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today the police will investigate the allegation that certain ministers were involved in the shadowy paramilitary movement called 'Pasukan Khas Persekutuan Malaysia' (PKPM), an illegal offshoot of the 'Pasukan Tindakan Cemas Malaysia' (PCTM).

The deputy prime minister said that the police would investigate all information they could obtain whether through letters from individuals or reports from the various parties.

He said that the police would investigate all possibilities.

"That's what the police subscribe in their investigations," he told reporters after flagging off the 'Kembara Merdeka Jalur Gemilang 2003' expedition here.

However, Abdullah said, he was certain that none of the Cabinet ministers were involved in the PKPM as alleged by staff marshal Munsyi Muslim Jacob, who heads the PTCM, a corporate body registered in the Prime Minister's Department under the Trustees Incorporated Act 1952 to provide rescue service during emergencies.

Last Saturday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that Munsyi must substantiate his allegation and if there is no proof, the government will take legal action against him.

Abdullah, who is also Home Minister, said: "I'm certain none of the ministers are involved like joining it as members. But there's a possibility some of them may have been approached by them."

The police busted the activities of the PKPM when they raided its headquarters in Pantai Dalam on July 24.

When detained, the PKPM leader, Nor Azami Ahmad Ghazali, 35, was in uniform, that of lieutenant-general. The police were reported to have seized two pistols, and a large stock of choppers and paramilitary uniforms.

Abdullah refuted accusations that the police had been slow in acting on police reports lodged pertaining to the activities of the PKPM.

"They noticed this activity in June, now it is August. That (police action) is very fast.

"...It's not something that the police waited for months or years (before taking action). Our police force are always cautious over such actions," he said.

Responding to a query, Abdullah said that the ministry has no plans to conduct a review on existing opragnisations to check whether they had deviated from their original objective.

"We'll know if they've gone astray," he said.

Abdullah said that the police would carry out their investigations into the activities of the PKPM until they had gathered sufficient evidence.

"But stating that investigations have been completed does not mean that the police will not conduct further investigations if new evidence were to crop up pertaining to the organisation," he said.

Asked on the alleged involvement of PKPM members in extortion cases, Abdullah said that he would not want to speculate on the matter.

The month-long 'Kembara Merdeka Jaluran Gemilang' programme, organised by the Information Department, is an event to celebrate the country's 46th National Day.

It is held in three stages -- Aug 4-19 in the peninsula, Aug 9-23 in

Sabah and Aug 17-30 in Sarawak.

-- BERNAMA

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