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Abdullah-FSFM

THOROUGH PROBE INTO SHADOWY MOVEMENT FSFM, SAYS DPM

KUALA LUMPUR, July 26 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today that police are conducting comprehensive investigations into the activities of the illegal movement called Federal Special Forces of Malaysia (FSFM).

Abdullah, who is Home Minister, said information obtained so far showed that the organisation was not linked to any movements that had been detected trying to undermine national security.

"Investigations are continuing, from the aspects of crime and also security, by the Special Branch and CID, and they will submit reports to me later," he told reporters after the launch of the Gerakan Daya Wawasan by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad here.

Abdullah was asked to comment on news reports today which, among others, said that police were looking for 8,000 members of the movement following the arrest of 23 people, including its leader, last Thursday.

Abdullah said it would be better for FSFM members to surrender because their action in joining the movement was clearly against the law.

"Its members who know what they have done is a criminal offence should leave the movement, which does not bring any good to our country," he said.

Meanwhile, when asked to comment on the report, Dr Mahathir said: "Well, there are crazy people in this country, and maybe they are inspired by all kinds of nonsensical things. So they do such things.

"I think it is crazy for someone to think he can topple the government and become Prime Minister by setting up his own Special Forces," he said.

The 23 members of the movement arrested by the police are suspected to have cheated more than 8,000 people, mostly businessmen.

The victims were said to have been offered military ranks like Second Lieutenant, Lieutenant and Captain in the Special Forces for payments of between RM8,000 and RM100,000.

News reports today also said police were hunting for a senior member of the movement, believed to be a millionaire.

The reports said police believed the movement planned to topple the government and instal its mastermind as the prime minister.

-- BERNAMA

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