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Rais-Act

TRUSTEES (INCORPORATION) ACT TO BE AMENDED

PUTRAJAYA, Aug 6 (Bernama) -- The Trustees (Incorporation) Act 1952 is being amended to make the registration process of bodies such as the Malaysian Emergency Action Force (PTCM) more stringent.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Utama Dr Rais Yatim said today that one of the proposals was to involve the police in monitoring the activities of such outfits.

There are currently 53 bodies, including the PTCM which is linked to the crippled bogus Federal Special Forces of Malaysia (FSFM), registered under the Act.

"In fact we have done the objective test as well as the revamp of the provisions of this Act for the consideration of the government. And hopefully I could forward this to the government within a few weeks from now," he told reporters at his office, here.

"With the revamp, I would say that the future registration of such bodies would be more stringently carried out," he said.

The FSFM is an illegal offshoot of the PTCM, which came into the limelight after its chief, Munsyi Muslim Yacob, alleged that Cabinet ministers were involved in the FSFM.

This prompted Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to ask Munsyi to substantiate his claims or face legal action if he failed to do so.

Munsyi told Bernama yesterday that he had no document to prove his allegations and that his statements had been misinterpreted by the media.

Dr Rais said that it was up to the Public Prosecutor to proceed with their actions against Munsyi.

Following Munsyi's admission, he said, it was clear that there was no basis for any parties to believe what he had related earlier.

Dr Rais said that Munsyi made the clarification as if he had panicked and this showed that a person must be very careful before expressing his opinion.

"That is because after they've expressed their opinion, there's a possibility that their views can be taken to be correct. Now that the PTCM leader has stated that he does not have proof, it's obvious this is a play in the media to cause alarm among certain parties and confuse the public," he said.

In a related development, Dr Rais reminded the Press to be careful in putting out stories on the alleged "involvement" of people in the FSFM.

"Being 'involved' as far as I know is the active participation or active membership of a body against which the allegation has been levelled," he said.

On the other hand, he said, just by receiving a letter from the FSFM or having a picture taken with its members did not necessarily indicate that a person was "involved" with the illegal movement.

Dr Rais had received a letter signed by Nor Azami inviting him to attend a FSFM function but the minister did not oblige after finding out that it was an illegal body.

"Be careful with the word 'involved' or 'terlibat'. It is the reputation of people which is at stake here, it is not merely to sell newspapers," he added.

The FSFM has been crippled after the arrest of its leader, Nor Azami Ahmad Ghazali, on July 24 followed by more than 2,000 members.

Dr Rais said that he would present a report on matters pertaining to the FSM to the Cabinet next week.

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