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Nazri-Sipadan

NAZRI PROPOSES LIFTING OF NIGHT-STAY BAN ON SIPADAN

SEMPORNA, May 8 (Bernama) -- Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Nazri Abdul Aziz will propose to the Cabinet to lift the night-stay ban on diving resort island of Sipadan here, following improved security.

"It is not practical and a burden to operators who have to bring the tourists out of the island before nightfall," he told reporters here today.

The government had imposed the night-stay ban after armed men abducted nine Malaysians and 12 foreigners from the island in April 2000.

Nazri, who visited the island today, said he would also propose to the Cabinet to set up a body to supervise the development of islands in the country.

He said such a proposal had also been made under former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Earlier when addressing members of the Tawau natural disaster committee, he said the National Security Division should be notified of any disaster to enable speedy assistance to be given to people affected.

He said such committees should also identify potential disasters in areas marked for development.

"There is no point of carrying out development if later it brought disaster to the people," he said.

-- BERNAMA

IL JS ABG