

RCI on Sabah illegals not ruled out, says Muhyiddin

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Despite being a very challenging issue, the federal government is committed to arriving at the best solution to the problem of illegal immigrants in Sabah.

Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin said while the government viewed the matter seriously, the Sabah BN had formed a special committee chaired by Deputy Chief Minister Joseph Pairin Kitingan to tackle the issue.

"I am willing to accept all aspects, let's look into that. We would consider every committee report and whether the way forward is the royal commission of inquiry (RCI) or other approaches.

"At the end of the day, this is something we can look into seriously," he said when opening the 13th Triannual Delegates Meeting of the United Pasok Momogun Kadazandusun Murut Organisation (Upko) at the Penampang Cultural Centre in Sabah today.

Muhyiddin said the government would wait for that report and come out with suggestions, taking into consideration all factors that had been scrutinised.

"Whether it could be resolved through any initiative or means, I think it is something that the people will believe that the BN is doing the right thing and at the end of the day, the support of the people towards BN is of importance," he said.

Muhyiddin was commenting on Upko president Bernard Dompok's proposal in his presidential address, that an RCI be set up to tackle the problem of illegal immigrants in the state.

'Opposition caught unprepared'

He said the BN government under the leadership of Prime Minister Najib Razak had introduced extraordinary measures to change the political landscape of the country, including abolishing the Internal Security Act and the Emergency Ordinance and other significant amendments of several legislations.

"Now, the opposition has been caught unprepared as they did not expect the prime minister to make the move," noted Muhyiddin.

He said the willingness of the government to amend the laws was not something out of the ordinary but indicated a transparent leadership which was prepared to accept and bring about changes. Muhyiddin requested all BN components, including Upko, to be prepared for the coming general election which would determine BN's continuity.

- Bernama