

Gov't to fight IS with jobs, economic growth

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PARLIAMENT The government plans to discourage Malaysians from joining militant groups by improving their livelihood.

Deputy Foreign Minister Hamzah Zainudin said this is because those inclined to join militant groups like the Islamic State (IS) have little to live for.

“We need to look at the root cause of the problem. We have found that those attracted to join the IS are those who are left out and have no hope in life.

“As such the government feels it is vital to overcome this problem, among other by developing their economic capabilities,” Zainudin told the Dewan Rakyat today.

“This includes stressing on thorough economic development, including developing infrastructure.

“It is hoped that by developing the economy, it would give new hope to the community so that they may lead better lives and stay away from IS and other terrorist groups,” he said.

The deputy minister was replying to a question from Noh Omar (BN-Tanjung Karang) (photo) on the government's efforts with Asean to curb militancy.

On this, Zainuddin said the government is more than willing to share with Asean partners its experiences in developing the economy, such as through its transformation process.

He added the foreign ministry is also cooperating with Asean partners to ensure that there are no militants among those who travel to Malaysia.

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