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We won't rule out use of ISA: PM

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SUBANG: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday warned that the government will invoke the Internal Security Act (ISA) against those who give it a reason to do so.

"If there are reasons for us to use (the ISA), we will use it," he said in reply to questions from reporters at Subang Air Force Base after returning from an official visit to Cairo.

Referring to Hindu Rights Action Force's (Hindraf) rally on Sunday, Abdullah, who also holds the Internal Security portfolio, said the ISA is a preventive measure to be used against anybody who jeopardises the country's peace.

He took a dig at Hindraf for filing a suit against the British government at the Royal Court of Justice, London, allegedly for bringing Indians to Malaysia as indentured labourers and exploiting them for 150 years.

"They (Hindraf) want to kiss the white. They also made various allegations that the Indians have been neglected and were made unskilled

labourers ... they asked for a compensation which would earn every Indian one million. Hindraf is very clever, isn't it?" he asked.

The quantum sought in Hindraf's suit is US\$4 trillion (RM14 trillion).

The memorandum that Hindraf intended to submit to the British High Commission on Sunday was reportedly to lobby the British Queen to appoint a queen's counsel to represent the suit.

On the memorandum's claim that over 100 Indians were slashed and killed by the Umno-controlled Malaysian government in the Kampung Medan incident in 2001, Abdullah reacted with disbelief, and said the government will act on the matter.

"We want to know what evidence they have (to make such an allegation)? They had made a serious allegation that Umno people had killed 100 Indians," said the premier, when told about the allegation.

He added that the government must act against those who download, print and distribute the material containing the allegation.

When told there might be more rallies in the near future, Abdullah

said he left it to the police to assess the situation and decide what they want to do.

On backbencher K. Devamany's (MIC-Cameron Highlands) remark in Parliament on Monday that the rally reflected the Indian community's disgruntlement towards certain government policies, Abdullah said the government could not possibly satisfy everyone 100%.

"The most important thing is that the government is fair to all. If we only give attention to one party, the others would be jealous and complain. So we have to be careful when it comes to the distribution of opportunities."

He said when there is development throughout the country, everyone will have an opportunity.

Abdullah said a peaceful country could not be possible without collective support from the people.

He said everytime before a general election, there would be allegations against the government.

"We will listen to the demands. But if their action brings instability and disturb the security of the people, the government will take action."