

MCA, MIC Urge Govt To Take A Strong Stand, Strengthen Nation's Intelligence Capabilities

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KUALA LUMPUR, July 14 (Bernama) -- The MCA today urged the government to take a strong stand and strengthen the nation's intelligence capabilities on both foreign and domestic threats.

MCA Central Committee Member Datuk Lua Choon Han said, the recent incursion in Pulau Mabul, Sabah last Saturday that resulted in the death Corporal Ab Rajah Jamuan and the abduction of Constable Zakia Aleip has reached an alarming stage.

"New measures must be implemented to strengthen our coastal waters and to restore our nation's international reputation to regain the confidence of tourists," he said in a statement, here.

In the 11.10pm incident on Saturday, Ab Rajah, 32, was killed, while his colleague, Zakia, 26, was believed to have been abducted by a group of eight armed men at the Mabul Water Bungalow Resort, Pulau Mabul in Semporna.

Beside increasing the number of police and military personnel, Lua said MCA suggested that training for the armed forces should be intensified as well.

Lua stressed that the militant's boldness in committing such action was a serious provocation against the nation's defence, therefore if needed to be, the government should launch a counter attack to defend the nation's sovereignty.

He said the MCA had also suggested that the government investigate elements of corruption or intelligence leak which might be the cause of the incursion.

Nevertheless, Lua said MCA lauded the quick action taken by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak to restructure the EssCom, and hoped plans to use Petronas' oil drilling rigs as "sea base" to be implemented quickly.

Sharing the view was Wanita MIC Chief Mohana Muniandy who said the incident should portray a clear example that the nation's security was something

that should not be taken lightly.

While expressing shock and grief over the incident, she said the Eastern Sabah Security Command (EssCom), needs to continue securing the area thoroughly as the threat from the Southern Philippines was serious.

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