

Penang has no power to probe, charge nudists, says Guan Eng
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The Penang government has no power to investigate or take action against the nudists who organised a gathering at Teluk Kampit beach at the Penang National Park.

Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng (pic) said this was because the park is under the purview of the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry and any probe and action would only be taken by the relevant authorities.

He told reporters that so far, the ranger who was mentioned in the video was being identified based on the logbook entry, but action against him would be taken by the ministry.

"We were shocked to learn from a participant of the event who wrote about it and posted online that a park ranger was informed before the party stripped naked.

"From the posting, we also learnt that the ranger had helped the participants start a campfire at the area.

"This is extraordinary. I have not watched the video but I was told that there is a person in the background and that could be the ranger himself.

"However, we are not in charge of the national park. It is run and managed by the ministry. Their salaries are paid by the ministry. There is nothing we can do."

Lim told a press conference that it was learnt that the ranger was probably the only person working on the day of the event.

About two months ago, 18 people of various nationalities including seven Malaysians, took part in an event titled "Malaysia Nude Sports Games 2014" at the Teluk Kampi beach in the national park.

The viral video garnered unsavoury comments from people and political parties including PAS.

It was also on the front page on several newspapers today which resulted in Lim pointing out his disappointment on the way the news was portrayed.

He said there were news reports in the past where similar nudist events were organised in other states but none made it to the front page.

"News reports revealed a nude reality show which played out in Mersing, Johor this year. In 2009, there was a Danish movie featuring a race in nude that was filmed in Mersing also. Then in 2010, it was reported that about 10 couples are caught naked daily on beaches in Terengganu.

"However, none of these reports made it to the frontpage unlike this Penang event. There is massive interest among people if it happens in Penang," he said.

Meanwhile, it was reported that Penang police chief Datuk Abdul Rahim Hanafi said 15 people in the nudist group have been identified, and seven of them are Malaysians.

"Four are Singaporeans while two are from Myanmar. There were also an Indian national and a Filipino," he told reporters today.

Rahim declined to reveal the identity of the organiser of the event dubbed the "Malaysia Nude Sports Games 2014", but said the police were tracking down the 15.

He said the police have so far recorded 10 statements so far.

"We will continue to investigate the matter. We will make arrests soon," he said. – August 6, 2014.

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