

Nurul Izzah: Sarawak misusing powers over migration
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By FMT Reporters

PKR vice-president says Immigration Act does not allow entry bar on those in political work.

KUALA LUMPUR: The MP for Lembah Pantai, Nurul Izzah Anwar, has condemned Sarawak's action to bar her from entering the state as an abuse of immigration powers meant to control mass migrations of people from the peninsula to Borneo.

She said the Immigration Act, which provides separate powers to Sabah and Sarawak, clearly stated that it was not intended for use against members of Parliament or those entering the two states for political purposes.

"Section 67 of the Immigration Act cannot be used to bar anyone from entering Sabah and Sarawak for political purposes," she said, and pledged to return to Sarawak for efforts to improve the lives of Sarawakians.

Nurul, a vice-president of Parti Keadilan Rakyat, was stopped at Kuching airport while on her way to a party event this evening, at which she was expected to announce the party's candidates for the coming state elections.

In a statement released here, Nurul Izzah said the Sarawak state government's action "although well within the rights of the state's powers" were contradictory to her right as a political figure and as a member of Parliament.

"This act is an abuse of power by the state; instead they should focus on keeping Sarawakians safe from terrorists from outside as well as within the state, and not members of Parliament or representatives of legally-constituted bodies engaged in political activities and associations," she said.

Nurul said she had gone to Sarawak to be in solidarity with local Keadilan leaders and future leaders for the coming state elections, and also for a project by the party to provide street lights, electricity and clean water in rural areas.

She urged supporters to "fill Sarawak with your calls for justice."

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