

No NUR Alert because no foul play, say cops of missing Orang Asli children's case

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By Muzliza Mustafa

Police have insisted today that the case of the missing Orang Asli children was dealt with immediately despite not activating the National Urgent Response (NUR) Alert.

Kelantan police chief Datuk Mazlan Lazim said that since there was no criminal elements detected in the case, which was reported six weeks ago, there was no reason for the authorities to activate the system.

NUR Alert is an early warning system that galvanises the authorities and community via a comprehensive network to locate missing children.

It is responsible for spreading information quickly and as fast as possible to help trace missing children (below 12 years of age) who could be victims of crime or abuse.

Mazlan said that based on police intelligence reports, gathered through all channels including from the Special Branch, there was no criminal elements found in the case despite concern raised by the families that the children could be victims of organ traffickers.

"We had very strong and reliable intelligence, and there was zero feedback, not even a tiny bit of information, of any criminal element involved.

"Because of that, we believe that the children were lost in the jungle. Hence, the reason for not activating the NUR Alert to find the children. All the resources from the beginning have been deployed to look for them there," said Mazlan.

He added that he also briefed Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi on the same development during his visit to the Search and Rescue (SAR) centre in Gua Musang on September 28.

Police today found another skeletal remains near Sungai Terias, near the area where the two missing Orang Asli children were found alive yesterday.

Police have yet to identify the remains but believed it belonged to one of the missing Orang Asli children.

To date, police have found four children. Two were found alive while two others dead. The two skeletal remains found on Thursday and today have yet to be identified.

Mazlan said that the survivors, Norieen Yakob, 10, and Miksudial Aluj, 11, were found at a huge tree with a small hole on the ground.

"It can be used as a hiding place, like a small cave, covered by the huge trunk and roots. It was big enough for the children to use as a shelter. This was one of the reasons why we couldn't locate them earlier," said Mazlan.

He said the children probably did not have the energy to shout out for help when search teams scoured the surrounding areas.

"We are committed to look for the rest," said Mazlan.

On claims that Norieen and Miksudial were given food by "someone", Mazlan said it was not possible based on their weak condition and he believed the children were referring to the drink they received when they were rescued.

"They were found in just skins and bones. It didn't look like they had been fed. They were malnourished and dehydrated," he said.

Norieen and Miksudial were among seven who went missing on August 23. They were said to have run away from their school hostel near SK Tohoi after getting caught swimming in the nearby river without permission. – October 10, 2015.

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