

Nurul Izzah Reopens Old Wounds For Those Affected By The Tanduo Intrusion
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 20 (Bernama) -- The recent meeting between Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) vice-president Nurul Izzah Anwar and daughter of Jamalul Kiram III, Jacel Kiram has reopened old wounds on the Kampung Tanduo intrusion in 2013.

The general opinion is that the Lembah Pantai MP is not respectful of the people of Sabah and families of security forces who were killed in defending the country's sovereignty.

Speaking to Bernama, Sabah Barisan Nasional Backbenchers Club (BNBBC) chairman, Datuk Jusli Ajirol said Nurul Izzah's action was embarrassing, especially at a time when it was reported that a Malaysian, Bernard Then Ted Fen, 39, from Sarawak was killed by the kidnapers from South Philippines.

"Nurul Izzah should apologise to the people of Sabah for her action in meeting Jacel Kiram," he said in commenting on photographs of Nurul Izzah and Jacel Kiram holding a "release Anwar immediately" poster, which went viral on social media sites yesterday.

He said Jamalul Kiram's daughter is an enemy of the country as she does not recognise Malaysia, is still pushing a claim on Sabah and was infact involved in the attack on Lahad Datu.

"Nurul Izzah should know that Sabah is still under threat of kidnapers and terrorists from southern Philippines as they are still pressing on their claim to Sabah, in addition, the Filipino government does not recognise the Sulu Sultanate," he said.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said in a media statement today said, the frivolous excuses such as 'too polite' or 'victim of event' could not be used as excuses for Nurul Izzah's action.

"It is unreasonable to insult the sensitivities and feelings of Sabahans and the families who lost their lives in the Lahad Datu intrusion with excuses especially when the heirs of the Sulu Sultanate are still pursuing with their Sabah claim," she said.

She said the statement by certain quarters equating the meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak's chance meeting with Israel Premier Benjamin Netanyahu showed the Opposition's political weakness in manipulating facts to justify their actions.

"I want to stress here that politics has its limits. The Lembah Pantai MP's irresponsible act is totally unacceptable as it involves national sovereignty, especially when the party she met was involved in the invasion and killing of our citizens," she said.

According to Kalabakan MP Datuk Seri Abdul Ghapur Salleh, Nurul Izzah's action reflects the opposition's attitude of taking whatever opportunity available for their interests without considering the sensitivities and the fate of other people, especially those in Sabah.

"This is a sensitive issue, why must she be photographed with Jamalul Kiram's daughter," he said at the same time criticising Seputih MP Teresa Kok's attempt to defend Nurul Izzah by saying that the matter should not be taken seriously as the Sulu issue is not something new.

Bintulu MP Datuk Seri Tiong King Sing, also agreed that Nurul Izzah's action was inappropriate as the Sulu issue was too sensitive to the people of Malaysia, especially in Sabah.

"How can she be so close with the Sulu people? Of course the suspicions are there, no matter how you deny it, what more with the recent killing of a hostage.

"How can she be so insensitive and still accept the Sulu people after what they have done to our country," he said.

Tiong stressed that Nurul Izzah cannot just deny the matter or come up with various excuses, instead, she should apologise to all Malaysians especially to the families of those who died in the incident.

On March 1, 2013, an armed group from the Philippines invaded Felda Sahabat 17, Kampung Tanduo, Lahad Datu and clashed with security forces which resulted in the killing of two members of the Malaysian security forces and three others injured, while 12 intruders were killed.

A day later, six police personnel were killed in an ambush at Kampung Simunul water village in Semporna and two soldiers also died in an operation in Lahad Datu.

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