

Scotland Yard Offers to Train Malaysian Cops on Border Security

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From Ahmad Fuad Yahya

LONDON, Nov 8 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said Scotland Yard has offered to train senior officers of the Royal Malaysia Police on border security.

Ahmad Zahid, who is also Home Minister, said the offer was made by Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, the Commissioner of London's Metropolitan Police (Scotland Yard), when they met Monday.

Speaking to Malaysian journalists here, Ahmad Zahid, who is on a five-day working trip to the United Kingdom from Monday, said they exchanged views on terrorism, crime and border security.

"The offer was made so that senior police officers from Malaysia can be attached with Scotland Yard for certain periods to gain experience (on border security)," he said.

Ahmad Zahid said Malaysia should learn about the aspects of border security in UK because they also faced the problem of illegal immigrants who come via sea routes as compared to land and air routes as the latter two could be easily monitored.

"This is something that should be learnt by the Malaysian authorities as most of the immigrants who come to Malaysia by sea routes do not possess travel documents and monitoring must be done 24/7.

"If a country like UK faces this problem, obviously Malaysia is not spared but with information sharing between the two countries, we are confident border security can be boosted," he said.

Ahmad Zahid said he would discuss the matter with Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar so that a suitable date could be set to send the officers to Scotland Yard.

The Deputy Prime Minister said UK police were also interested in learning from Malaysia's experience on border security as well as on monitoring terrorism activities including channeling of funds to organizations or individuals involved in terrorism.

Ahmad Zahid, who visited the Belmarsh Prison in West London after the meeting, was given a briefing on efforts by the UK authorities to rehabilitate inmates there who were involved in terrorism in the UK.

The prison authorities, he said, had stationed an imam who holds a degree on Islamic knowledge to deradicalise them.

Malaysia, he said, also shared its experience with the prison's top brass on its deradicalisation programmes that have been used since 1948 when facing a communist insurgency.

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