

## **Temple issue brought to Parliament, state gov't states its stand**

**BERNAMA**

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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 29 (Bernama) -- The riot incidents which took place at the Sri Maha Mariamman Temple, USJ25, Putra Heights near here was brought to the country's top lawmaking body, the Dewan Rakyat, today, proving the Government's seriousness in addressing the issue, and that no one is above the law.

Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad stressed that the government was acting in accordance with the law and no one could break the law for personal interests, and presented a statement on the incident under Standing Order 14 (i), namely an explanation from ministers.

Home Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, who also gave an explanation according to the Standing Order, said a Special Task Force was also set up to investigate the incidents.

He said the team, known as Op Seafield, was headed by Federal Police (Bukit Aman) CID director Datuk Seri Ahmad Ahmad Najmuddin Mohd, and included personnel from Bukit Aman as well as the Selangor police contingent.

On Tuesday, members of Parliament from both sides of the divide agreed to the tabling of an emergency motion to Dewan Rakyat Speaker Datuk Mohd Ariff Md Yusof to discuss the issue.

However, Mohd Ariff announced today that motion submitted by both sides had been rejected.

Meanwhile, Dr Mahathir said it was up to the Selangor government to take over the land housing the Sri Maha Mariamman Temple from the current owners, reminding, however, that the issue was still tied to the court's decision.

The Selangor government also issued a statement saying that it would now allow the temple to be demolished or relocated until an amicable solution was reached by all parties.

Menteri Besar Amirudin Shari said the state government was also willing to be the intermediary on the issue.

A total of 30 people including three employees of development firm One City Development Sdn Bhd have been remanded to assist investigations into the riots at the temple's compound as well as One City shopping centre on Monday and Tuesday which also resulted in a fireman getting seriously injured.

Mohd Adib Mohd Kassim, 24, who is currently being treated at the National Heart Institute (IJN), is showing signs of improvement.

The Sultan of Kedah Sultan Sallehuddin Ibni Almarhum Sultan Badlishah visited Muhammad Adib at the hospital today, and so have Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad and PAS Deputy President Datuk Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man.

Checks by Bernama around the temple tonight found there was still a heavy police presence at the scene, and the situation was under control.

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