

EXERCISE GREATER SELF-RESTRAINT

National Service trainees must abide by the rules, says Musa

By ROSIE INUS

KOTA KINABALU: Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Haji Aman has called for greater self-restraint among the National Service trainees to avoid misunderstandings.

Commenting on the fight among a group of National Service trainees here on Thursday, Musa hoped that it would not recur.

"I am calling on them to comply with the rules so that incidents like this will not happen again," he told reporters after participating in the Royal Malaysia Police's commemorative shooting competition in conjunction with the 197th Police Day celebration at the Sabah police contingent headquarters, here yesterday. The competition was officiated by Head of State Tun Haji Ahmadshah Abdullah.

"I believe the incident was due to misunderstanding. Let us avoid this," he added.

Twenty-eight trainees were detained following three incidents of fighting at the camp Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and camp Asrama Kompleks Sukan Likas, here.

They were released Friday after their statements were recorded.

Meanwhile, Sabah Police Commissioner Datuk Iliyas Ibrahim said police were not taking any legal action yet against the

trainees concerned.

"We just called them and advised them no to do it again," he said.

On another matter, Iliyas said the Sabah police had sent to their counterparts in the Philippines the photos and particulars of the three ship crew members who were abducted in southern Philippine waters near Sabah last Sunday.

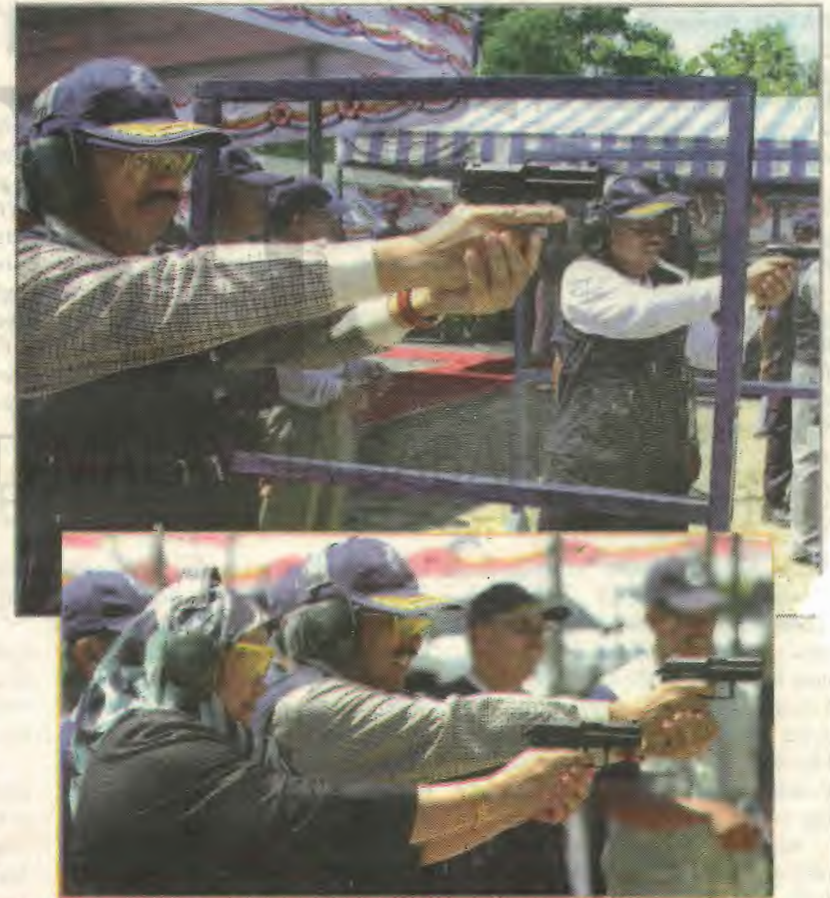
"We have also conveyed our request for assistance from the Philippine authorities to locate the whereabouts of the abductors and their captives," he said.

"We have yet to receive feedback but we believe that they are in the southern Philippines," he said.

In the incident at about 7pm last Sunday, a group of masked gunmen intercepted and stormed the East Ocean 2 tugboat and Sarinto I barge and forced two Malaysians – Toh Chiu Tiong, 48, and Wong Siu Ung, 52 – and an Indonesian skipper, J.E. Walter Sampel, 53, into their boat.

Iliyas also said that police believed the gunmen were from the same group which stormed the Borneo Paradise Resort in Kunak and abducted six people last October.

The group released a Filipino, Novelito Arcosel, 19, but still held on to five of the Kunak hostages comprising a Filipino and four Indonesians. "We believe the five are still alive and safe," Iliyas said.



TOP: Tun Ahmadshah and Musa trying out their shooting skill at the competition yesterday; BELOW: The Chief Minister's wife Datin Seri Hajah Faridah Hajah Tussin was among the special guests