

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE – LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
REFERENCES COMMITTEE**

**INQUIRY INTO AUSTRALIA’S AGREEMENT WITH MALAYSIA IN RELATION TO
ASYLUM SEEKERS: 23 SEPTEMBER 2011**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(QON 14)

Senator Cash (L&CA 44) asked:

Could you get the Committee a copy of the article [on RELA] that appeared in the Malaysia paper [regarding the activities of RELA no longer being involved in immigration matters without being in the company of police]?

Answer:

Please find attached:

- an article appearing in the *New Straits Times* on 23 June 2011 (Attachment A); and
- an article appearing in *Bernama* on 23 June 2011 (note that an identical article appeared in *The Star* on 24 June 2011 (Attachment B)).

straits

'Rela will no longer round up illegals on its own'

2011/06/24

PUTRAJAYA: People's Volunteer Corps (Rela) will no longer allow their officers and members to carry out operations to nab illegal immigrants, said Rela director-general Datuk Mustafa Ibrahim.

He said Rela had, since March, stopped its Ops Tegas on illegal immigrants. It only allowed members to take part in joint operations with other law enforcement agencies upon request.

The decision was made following complaints received, including allegations, that Rela members accepted bribes from illegal immigrants and their employers.

"Rela wants to focus on our role towards serving the community."

Mustafa also denied allegations of any involvement with the Malaysian National Former Volunteers Charity Organisation which was allegedly collecting donations and offering honorary ranks for RM5,000 to RM50,000.

He said he had lodged a police report about the association that is based in Putrajaya.

"Rela has nothing to do with this association."

"I urge the public to be careful and to check the background of the organisation prior to becoming an honorary member," he said.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussien said the ministry had not given permission to Malay rights group Perkasa to recruit Rela members.

In his written reply to Teresa Kok Suh Sim (DAP-Seputeh) in Parliament yesterday, Hishammuddin said the decision was up to the members themselves.

Kok had asked the ministry why it had approved Perkasa's proposal to recruit Rela members as its members, and if it was a sign of the government's acknowledgement of Perkasa's role as a Malay rights non-governmental organisation.

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Friday June 24, 2011

Rela stops war against the illegals

PUTRAJAYA: The People's Volunteer Corps (Rela) has ceased operation against illegal immigrants since March, said director-general [Datuk Mustafa Ibrahim](#).

The decision was made after considering the good and bad effects of the operation conducted since 2005, he added.

“There were allegations that Rela members collected money from illegal immigrants, farm owners, restaurant owners and employers at construction sites.

“We investigated them but some were baseless. If anyone still asks for protection money and conduct operations, please report to the authorities,” he said yesterday.

Mustafa said Rela was willing to assist enforcement agencies, such as the police and immigration, to check the influx of illegal immigrants.

Asked whether Rela would be involved with the amnesty programme for illegal immigrants, he said it would not be directly involved but was willing to help.

Mustafa also said Rela was not involved with a former Malaysian volunteers welfare body which offered post of officers and honorary members at RM5,000 to RM50,000.

He said Rela lodged a report at the Putrajaya police headquarters on June 13 denying its involvement with the body.

The actual status of the body is not known. It is believed to have been in operation since last month and was located in Precinct 9 and Sentul, Kuala Lumpur. - Bernama