

Razaleigh's remarks haven't affected Malaysia's image

By OUR REPORTER

THE disparaging remarks made by Parti Melayu Semangat 46 president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah about Malaysia to the foreign media in Australia has not affected the country's image or investments in Malaysia.

"Enlightened people will know that the statements come from an opposition leader and will be taken with a pinch of salt," Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Dr Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan said to reporters after opening a diplomatic training course for foreign and local participants at the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations in Petaling Jaya yesterday.

The Government is always

monitoring statements on government policies made by Malaysians abroad and reports are made, said the deputy minister.

In this case, a report on Tengku Razaleigh, with an analysis of the situation, is being made and will be submitted to the Government as soon as it is ready.

He said the compilation of such reports is an on-going process whenever comments about Malaysia are made. These reports are submitted to the Government.

Fadzil added that the present issue has nothing to do with the Australian Government and clarification will be made, if necessary.

Commenting on King Norodom Sihanouk's warning to tourists to avoid Cambodia

after the execution of three Western hostages by rebels, Fadzil said no restrictions on travel to the country will be imposed for now, adding that any such decision will be for the Cabinet to make.

He said the situation there will be monitored but the Government does not wish to get involved in the politics there.

"We would like the situation there to be stable and the issues to be resolved amicably," he said.

On the former leader of the banned Al Arqam movement, Fadzil said the decision to send him to speak to Al Arqam followers overseas will depend on whether the situation calls for it, especially since the matter has quietened down.