

Perak fishermen threatened by gangsters urged to lodge report

m/s 13

IPOH: Inland fishermen who have been threatened by gangsters claiming to be acting on behalf of illegal farm operators to guard disused mining pools in the state have been urged to lodge police reports.

State police chief Datuk Razarudin Husain said his department had not received any report on the threats as reported in a local newspaper yesterday.

"However, I will ask the Criminal Investigation Department to investigate this matter after obtaining more information.

"We urge anyone who has become a victim to come forward and lodge a report," he said here yesterday.

He was asked to comment on the newspaper report claiming that dozens of disused mining pools in Perak had been illegally encroached on for farming and livestock breeding, thus threatening the source of income of freshwater fishermen, whose livelihood depended on fishing

in those pools.

The illegal farmers had reportedly hired gangsters to guard the disused mining pools in Kampar, Batang Padang and Perak Tengah to prevent people from entering those areas.

Several fishermen in Perak Tengah district had claimed to have been drawn into fights, with some being assaulted and their fishing equipment and boats damaged by a group of individuals who claimed to be caretakers of mining pools in the district.

The local press report also mentioned that encroachment on the disused mining pool areas was not a new issue as it had been raised by fishermen in the Kampar area at a dialogue session with Tualang Sekah assemblyman, Datuk Nolee Ashilin Mohamed Radzi, in 2014.

Razarudin said police would investigate and take action if the allegations of threats to the fishermen's safety were found to be true. **Bernama**



Datuk Razarudin Husain