

RCI on death camps can offer solutions

THE Home Ministry has confirmed the mass grave near 17 camps, presumably human trafficking detention camps, in Padang Besar, Perlis.

The discovery of the mass grave and camps raises questions about human trafficking near the Malaysian-Thai border.

The government needs to form a special inquiry board to investigate the matter.

A Royal Commissions of Inquiry (RCI) should be set up to resolve issues arising from the discovery.

An RCI involves research into an issue, consultations with experts

both within and outside the government, and public consultations.

The results contain policy recommendations and are often published in reports, often massive.

Setting up an RCI is not something new as we have done it many times.

For instance, the Royal Commission on Salaries and Conditions of Service of the Public Service 1965, Royal Commission of Inquiry to Investigate the Workings of Local Authorities in West Malaysia 1968, Royal Commission on the Teaching Services 1971, Royal Commission of

Inquiry on the collapse of the upper deck of the Pengkalan Sultan Abdul Halim ferry terminal in Butterworth 1988, Royal Commission of Inquiry to investigate a fire at Sekolah Agama Rakyat Taufikah al-Halimah in Padang Lumat, Yan, Kedah 1989, Royal Commission of Inquiry into the fire at the Bright Sparklers factory in Sungai Buloh New Village 1991, Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Teoh Beng Hock case 2010, and the the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the illegal immigrant issue in Sabah 2012.

It is our hope that by setting up

an RCI, the discovery of the mass grave and camps can be investigated and solutions can be offered.

Having an RCI investigate the tragedy also shows the seriousness and transparency of the government to investigate issues surrounding the discovery, revealing facts and findings to the public, as well as taking action against those who are responsible.

Dr Muzaffar Syah Mallow,
senior lecturer, Faculty of Syariah & Law, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia, Nilai, Negri Sembilan