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Scl. Welfare Officer Refutes Allegations

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun.—Allegations by a Singapore Malay newspaper that over 500 Malays comprising about 100 families who were released some time September from the Kluang detention camp had not been “cared for” by government was refuted by Che Saleha binti Ali, State Welfare Officer, Selangor.

These Malays, together with several others including Chinese, were detained following the evacuation of Jenderam on Feb. 14 last.

Che Saleha told The Standard that there is genuine destitution in all the cases, and that relief in cash, food parcels and clothes will be given, but this will take some time as she will have to investigate into each case and make her recommendations to Government.

After their release, some of these people have gone to their relatives, while employment has been found for most of them as rubber tappers in Kluang and Setapak.

Soon after their release, the Selangor Welfare Department fed and housed them and later sent them to their relatives or friends.

Of the people released, the difficult ones were the women whose husbands are still detained, she said. They are the ones who need immediate relief.

Che Saleha refuted a further allegation by the newspaper that she had taken all the receipts given to these people for their property when they were detained.

The paper also alleged that some of the people who had been releas-



ed handed their receipts to her in order to claim back their property. The paper wanted to know why she took the receipts and what she is doing with them.

Che Saleha said that some of the Malays released handed their receipts to Inche Samsuddin bin Haji Sidin of the District Office. She personally did not receive any.

She added that all their properties were in the safe custody of the District Officer, Kajang, and would be given back to them when they had found the transport to take their property back.

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