

MAHATHIR-MAS

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KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 15 (BERNAMA) — THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WISH TO ESCALATE THE PRESENT MAS CRISIS AND IT HAS ACTED +PROPERLY+ ON THE MATTER, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD HAVE ACTED IMPROPERLY IF IT HAD WANTED TO.

+OTHER PEOPLE HAVE ACTED IMPROPERLY, BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE ALSO SHOULD ACT IMPROPERLY,+ HE SAID IN AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO THE MAS DC-10 AIRCRAFT NOW STRANDED IN SYDNEY.

ON POSSIBLE RETALIATORY MEASURES IN THE WAKE OF THE GROUNDING OF THE JET, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID MALAYSIA WAS STUDYING THE MATTER.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED: +WE DON'T PURPOSELY GO TO DESTROY THE BUSINESS OF OTHER COUNTRIES+. —BERNAMA MORE 1422/BY

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+ANYWAY, WE DON'T HAVE THE MEANS AND ANYBODY CAN TWIST OUR ARMS,+ HE SAID.

ON THE CALL BY THE VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL UNIONS TO RELEASE THE 22 AIRLINES EMPLOYEES UNION (AEU) MEMBERS, AND ENCIK DONALD UREN, THE ASIAN REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS FEDERATION (ITF), DR. MAHATHIR SAID:

+ WE HAVE OUR OWN LAWS AND NOBODY CAN TELL US WHAT KIND OF LAW WE SHOULD FORMULATE AND IMPLEMENT+.

HE SAID THE MALAYSIAN LAWS APPLY TO ALL, INCLUDING MINISTERS IF THEY BREAK THE LAW AND WERE FOUND GUILTY. —BERNAMA 1429/BY