

MAHATHIR-BOMB  
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(P)

ALOR SETAR, JUNE 9 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HE HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY REPORT OF THE RECENT BOMB EXPLOSIONS IN SABAH BEING POLITICALLY MOTIVATED.

+AS FAR AS I KNOW, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE SECURITY FORCES ARE STILL INVESTIGATING THE MATTER,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AT HIS RESIDENCE IN TITI GAJAH NEAR HERE BEFORE LEAVING FOR KUALA LUMPUR.

COMMENTING ON THE STATEMENT BY SABAH CHIEF MINISTER DATUK JOSEPH PAIRIN KITINGAN THAT THE BOMB EXPLOSIONS WERE BE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY INFORMATION ON THIS.

THE GOVERNMENT CONDEMNED THE PLANTING OF THE BOMBS, WHATEVER THE MOTIVES, HE SAID.

+THE GOVERNMENT REGRETS SUCH INCIDENTS AS THEY ENDANGER THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID. -- MORE  
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HE SAID THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD SO FAR NOT ESTABLISHED THE MOTIVE BEHIND THE BOMBINGS, AND ADDED THAT +WE MUST HAVE CLEAR PROOF TO SAY IT HAS POLITICAL OR OTHER MOTIVES.+

DATUK PAIRIN, ON HIS RETURN TO KOTA KINABALU AFTER ATTENDING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE INTERNATIONAL QURAN-READING COMPETITION IN KUALA LUMPUR, SAID POLICE HAD CONFIRMED THAT THE BOMB EXPLOSIONS IN SABAH WERE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED.

ON THE QUESTION OF THE ADMISSION OF THE PARTI BERGATU SABAH (PBS) INTO THE BARISAN NASIONAL (BN), DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS BN CHAIRMAN, SAID IT WOULD DEPEND ON WHETHER PBS WAS ABLE TO PROOF THAT IT WAS A TRULY MULTI-RACIAL PARTY.

+WHAT I SAID IN A WEEKLY MAGAZINE (ASIAWEEK) IS CLEAR. HOW LONG THE BN WILL OBSERVE THE PBS TO FIND OUT WHETHER IT IS A MULTI-RACIAL PARTY WILL DEPEND ON THE SITUATION,+ HE SAID.

HE DECLINED FURTHER COMMENT. -- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT HE DID NOT PROPOSE TO VISIT PERLIS ON JULY 8 AS REPORTED IN THE NEWSPAPERS.

THE REPORTS SAID THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD VISIT THE STATE TO SETTLE DIFFERENCES IN THE ARAU UMNO DIVISION WHICH EMERGED AT ITS DELEGATES' CONFERENCE ON MAY 18.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE, DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH, WAS HERE TO ATTEND A BREAKING-OF-THE-FAST CEREMONY IN KAMPUNG PADANG GELAM PASIR, JITRA, YESTERDAY. -- BERNAMA  
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