

Article on Mahathir that never was

Disclaimer by publishers of Fortune magazine



By
JEFFREY RAMAYAH

Dr MAHATHIR: Rumours

Datuk MEGAT:
Telegram

THERE never was an article in a foreign magazine describing Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as one of the wealthiest Prime Ministers in the world.

This disclaimer by the publishers of Fortune Magazine was conveyed to the Malaysian Government in a telegram two days ago.

Deputy Home Affairs Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayub told *The Malay Mail* yesterday the rumours alleging the publication of the article were spread by irresponsible people out to discredit Malaysian leaders.

This was done through poison-pen letters which stated that Dr Mahathir has vast wealth in the form of bank deposits and property outside the country.

Speaking to the *Malay Mail* in Parliament House where he was attending yesterday's session, Datuk Megat Junid said the rumours started surfacing early last year.

"We at first ignored the rumours because they are totally untrue and

created by people against the Prime Minister and his Government," he said.

"But when we came across poison-pen letters which tried to convince the people that the article was true and did appear, the Ministry decided to act.

"We contacted the publisher of Fortune Magazine which is published in the United States and distributed world-wide to find out whether there ever was such an article."

"Only yesterday (Sunday), I received a telegram from the publishers which said there was absolutely no truth in the said allegations and rumours."

Datuk Megat Junid said the publishers expressed concern over the rumours and described them as totally malicious.

He said the publishers had stated that such rumours will also affect the credibility of the magazine which is reputed for being accurate and objective.