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Mahathir-health

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KUALA LUMPUR, April 12, (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he is prepared to face attempts to topple him, and will continue to defend himself.

In an interview with RTM, the prime minister said he would not fall as long as that moment has not arrived.

+They can go on attacking but I will continue to defend myself.

+If it is time for me to fall, I will fall but if it is not time yet I will not,+ he said, when asked if recent rumours that he was ill were an attempt to topple him.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he did not know if the rumours were spread with the intention of bringing him down but he admitted that many people wanted to topple him.

The rumours might have been the work of certain people in foreign countries who wanted to discredit Malaysia out of envy.

He said: +Maybe there are people outside Malaysia with vested interests who want to disrupt things in the country.

+This is because our country has been acknowledged for its success in almost all fields -- good racial relations, economic growth, sound financial position and the like. These may have caused envy.+ -- more

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He cited as an example government efforts to beautify Kuala Lumpur which inevitably were criticised by some people.

+There is nothing we can do with people with such an attitude as it is their nature. These people never see the good side of things because they look out only for the bad,+ he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the rumours might also have been started by people speculating in the share market to make quick gains.

Asked what he thought about the rumour, he said: +I do not know what to say. Perhaps the question can be directed to my rivals.

+For example, one who is not ill is said to be sick. It seems that some people are smarter than doctors.

+Personally, I feel fine and can work like others.+ -- Bernama

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