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Megat-rumours

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KAMPUNG GAJAH, April 14 (Bernama) -- Certain people within and outside the country are continuing to spread rumours that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is ill, Deputy Home Affairs Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayob said here.

They were spreading the rumours, through the telephone and telex, to smear the nation's image and manipulate share prices, he told reporters after breaking the fast at Masjid Bukit Chawi, Seberang Perak, near here last night.

He described the spreading of the rumours as irresponsible, and said the government could not act as yet because it had to identify the sources.

Datuk Megat Junid said the intention of these people was to topple the prime minister because they were jealous of the success the country had achieved in various fields.

The rumours, however, did not adversely affect the nation's image because Malaysia had been acknowledged as a country advanced in the areas of economy, racial unity, politics and development, he said. -- more

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He said the rumours were also intended to bring down share prices in the hope that these people could make a quick profit when the prices rose afterwards.

Datuk Megat Junid said investors in the country were unaffected by the rumours because they had confidence in the stability and administration of the nation.

Asked about a syndicate falsifying Singapore international passports to enable people enter this country, he said the government was working with the republic to trace its members.

He said the Immigration Department had traced and recently arrested five people from China who had falsified Singapore passports to enter Malaysia. He also said that more than 20 people from China had been detained by Singapore authorities for investigation into the matter.

On the detention of several operators of +get-rich-quick+ schemes in Perak recently, he said the police could question people to obtain further information after receiving reports from the depositors. -- Bernama

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