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MAHATHIR SAYS FOREIGN COUNTRY BEHIND INSTIGATORS

Mahathir-group

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LANGKAWI, Nov 3 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today a group that has been instigating the Langkawi people to reject development may be financed by a foreign country.

The group, from Pulau Pinang, was not a political organisation but was close to an opposition party, he said.

+They have no other work than to instigate the residents on the pretext of wanting to help them. If we were to follow their advice, development projects in Langkawi will fail,+ he told reporters during a one-day visit here.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he did not rule out the possibility that a foreign country was financing this group to undermine the country's economy.

However, the government did not intend to take action against them because Malaysia was a free country, he said. -- more

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Mahathir-group 2 (last) Langkawi

+There are many unpatriotic people who are willing to sell their souls to foreigners,+ he said.

He said Langkawi residents should be thankful for the higher standard of living brought about by the government's programmes to turn the island into a tourist resort.

He said the Amanah Saham Anak Langkawi (ASAL), a trust fund aimed at ensuring the islanders get to taste the fruits of development, was being formed.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir early this year announced the proposed establishment of ASAL to ensure the locals benefit from the Langkawi Development Authority's investment returns. -- Bernama

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