
Action against Ashaari only if he committed crime

THE Government will only take action against Darul Arqam leader Ashaari Muhammad if he is found to be involved in criminal activities, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said the Government had yet to receive confirmation that Ashaari was now in Malaysia as claimed by some people.

Speaking to reporters at Parliament House, Dr Mahathir said Ashaari was involved in religious activities.

"We can only take action

if we have proof that he is involved in any crime".

Ashaari is said to have left the country and is currently believed to be in Thailand.

Earlier, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman said during question time that the Government did not plan to use the Extradition Act to bring back Darul Arqam leaders to face legal action.

He said the Government was monitoring the activities of the religious sect to ensure they were not a threat to Islam and social

order.

He said Muslims in the country were aware of Darul Arqam's deviationist activities following Government measures to counter the movement's teachings.

"The Federal Government has banned their (Darul Arqam) publications," he said.

Hamid was replying to Senator Azman Atar Othman who asked whether the Government would take firm action against Darul Arqam which continued to uphold the Aurad Muhammadiyah faith.