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Mahathir - Bosnia

MALAYSIA WILLING TO SEND ITS MILITARY TO BOSNIA BUT....

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SHAH ALAM, May 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Malaysia is willing to send its forces to Bosnia-Herzegovina if the situation warrants it.

The Prime Minister however said Malaysia was very dissatisfied over the United Nations Security Council which was dominated by countries with veto powers which would restrict Malaysia from helping the Bosnian people.

"They themselves are not willing to help and they are also preventing us from helping," he told reporters after commissioning the startup of the RM260 million Proton Casting Plant at the Hicom-Glenmarie Industrial Park here.

He said the Permanent members of the UN Security Council were preventing the Bosnians from obtaining arms to defend themselves.

Their action is like someone who is beaten with a stick but is prevented by others from getting his own stick for fear that he will beat back with the stick.

"I don't know what logic they are using," he said when asked to comment on Iran's readiness to send its soldiers to fight in Bosnia-Herzegovina along with members of the International Islamic Community. -- more

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Mahathir - Bosnia 2 Shah. Alam

Asked on the proposal to set up another airline, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia Airlines was expanding rapidly and was being over stretched and Malaysia needed a second airline.

He said it was for destinations not covered by Malaysia Airlines and also it was not to compete with the existing national carrier but rather to complement its services.

"It is likely that the second airline will be based on Pclangi Air and probably other airline companies or a merger and anyone including Malaysia Airlines can invest in the second airline," the Prime Minister said.

Dr Mahathir said the second airline would only fly to overseas destinations and as to the question of when it would be set up it would depend on the investors in the company.

The government does not want to take up a stake in the company if possible as it wanted the private sector to operate it, he said. -- more

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Mahathir - Bosnia 3, (last) Shah Alam

On the Cambodian question, the Prime Minister said, "we expected this problem anyway, as we never for a moment believed that the Khmer Rouge will cooperate in giving up power."

Dr Mahathir said the problem should be handled in an appropriate manner by the United Nations.

"If the UN starts retreating, then it means that the UN, as far as we are concerned, is quite useless," he said.

"If countries are afraid that their soldiers will get hurt then what is the point of becoming soldiers?"

Dr Mahathir also said Kelantan would be required to amend its State Constitution if the law required it to do so.

He said this when asked to comment on reports that Kelantan would not amend the State Constitution to enable the appointment of the State Secretary, State Legal Adviser and State Financial Officer without reference to the Ruler. -- Bernama

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▼19/05/20-25MST