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Mahathir-extradition

MALAYSIA STUDYING RAJA BAHRIN'S EXTRADITION ACCORDING TO ITS OWN LAWS

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PULAU PINANG, Sept 20 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister ⁸ Datuk Seri Dr

Mahathir Mohamad said today the extradition of Raja Kamarul Bahrin Shah

Raja Ahmad Shah to Australia will be decided based on Malaysian law.

It was up to the legal officers to determine whether there was any basis to hand Raja Bahri over to the Australian government, he said.

Canberra is seeking the extradition of Raja Bahrin for allegedly abducting his two children, Iddin and Shahirah, out of Australia last year.

The government would abide by the laws of Malaysia, Dr Mahathir told reporters after a welcoming ceremony for passengers of the Eastern and Oriental Express train, here.

He said that even if Malaysia had an extradition treaty, any application made would still be subject to the country's laws. -- more

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Mahathir-extradition 2 (last) Pulau Pinang

"For this case it is clear that any decision will be made according to Malaysian law," said Dr Mathathir who declined to comment further.

"Under our system, we do not comment on court cases because it is considered contempt of court," he said.

However, he said that so far the case had not affected the relationship between Malaysia and Australia.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir, Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik and other guests on board the luxury express train on its maiden journey to Bangkok were welcomed on arrival at the Butterworth railway station by Chief Minister Dr Koh Tsu Koon.

They were then taken by trisaws to the ferry terminal where they boarded the Pulau Kapas ferry for the island. Antique cars then took them to the residence of the Yang Dipertua Negeri, Tun Dr Hamdan Sheikh Tahir, where they were entertained to a cultural performance. -- Bernama

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Maahathir-extradition 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur (reopens)

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the ministry was leaving the extradition issue to the Law Ministry and the Attorney-General's Chambers as it involved family matters and not state relations.

"However, if they (Australian authorities) sends any any letter to us regarding the matter, we will forward it to the Law Minister and the Attorney-General," he told reporters after the opening of the Asean Interparliamentary Organisation (Aipo) general assembly, here, today.

Asked whether the problem would affect relations between the two countries, he said it had nothing to do with diplomatic ties.

Asked whether it was proper for the Australian government to file the application, he said Malaysia had no extradition treaty with Australia.

Yesterday, Law Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar said the government would give full legal protection to Raja Bahrin as he had not committed any offence under Malaysian law. -- Bernama

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