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Mahathir-extradition

M'SIA REJECTS AUSTRALIAN REQUEST TO EXTRADITE PRINCE

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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 2 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has rejected a request by Australia to extradite a Terengganu prince to face charges for allegedly breaching a custody order.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he had been advised by the Attorney-General and the Home Ministry that there was no basis for the government to entertain the request to extradite Raja Kamarul Bahrin Shah Ahmad Shah.

Australia, which has no extradition treaty with Malaysia, had made the request to have Raja Kamarul Bahrin Shah tried in an Australian Family Court for allegedly abducting his two children, Iddis and Shahirah, from the custody of his ex-wife, Jacqueline Gillespie.

Replying to questions from reporters after a meeting with Umno division heads here, Dr Mahathir, who is the Home Minister, said he had signed the letter rejecting the request.

"I have signed the letter and handed it to the Foreign Ministry to be delivered to the Australian government," he said. -- more

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Law Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar had said recently that extradition could only be allowed if a person was proven to have violated the laws of the applicant country and the offence was also a crime in his own country.

Dr Mahathir, when asked who would succeed retired Attorney-General Tan Sri Abu Talib Othman, said the government would propose that the Yang di-Pertuan-Agong appoint a civil servant.

He also said that the government would submit a name to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong as soon as possible.

Abu Talib, who had served for 19 years, is the first attorney-general to have been appointed from the civil service.

He had succeeded then Justice Minister Tan Sri Hamzah Abu Samah. -- more

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Earlier, Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, held a meeting with the heads of all Umno divisions.

The meeting is a traditional Umno practice which allows the party president to meet and give advice to the delegates before a general assembly.

Umno Youth and Wanita Umno hold their general assemblies tomorrow. The Umno general assembly will be held over three days from Thursday. -- Bernama.

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▼02/11/20-19MST