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Mahathir - Keating

MAHATHIR SAYS HE HAS NOT SEEN KEATING'S LETTER

LANGKAWI, Dec 3 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he has yet to see Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating's letter.

The Prime Minister said he had not even read the newspaper reports regarding the matter as he had been attending a workcamp at Kem Bina Negara here since yesterday.

"I have not even read the papers. I have been cut off by being at the workcamp where there is no newspaper, no radio, no TV," he told reporters on this tourist island today.

Responding to a question by an Australian TV reporter who noted that the letter did not have the word "apologise", Dr Mahathir said, "I don't know. I have to see... may be there is other word which carries the same meaning."

To a question whether he was disappointed that the "sense of apology was not there in the letter", he said: "I don't know whether it is there."

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Mahathir - Keating 2 (last) Langkawi

Asked when he will read the letter, the Prime Minister said, he would do so when he got the letter.

"I am sure my staff will send it to me," he added.

When asked to comment on Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat's statement recently that the ministry would ban radio and television programmes and advertisements from Australia, he said, "I don't know, I have to find out from him."

He also denied any knowledge about the cancellation of Keating's visit to Malaysia next year.

Tomorrow, the Prime Minister is scheduled to open the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre, the venue of LIMA '93, and visit to the crocodile farm at Teluk Datai before departing for Kuala Lumpur later in the afternoon. -- Bernama.

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