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Collapse-Mahathir

CABINET HAS NOT DECIDED TO SET UP A ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

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BUKIT MERTAJAM, Dec 21 (Bernama) --- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Cabinet has not decided to set up a Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Highland Towers condominium collapse tragedy.

The Cabinet had still not made a decision on the matter, he told a press conference after opening the Otis Manufacturing Company Sdn Bhd factory in the Bukit Tengah industrial zone here.

Dr Mahathir said that a commission of inquiry would take a long time to conduct hearings and propose recommendations to the government.

He said that from experience, a commission of inquiry took a long time to complete its task to the extent that all parties had forgotten the events and then, a study had to be made on the recommendations which sometimes could not be implemented.

Therefore, it would be better to receive a report through the Cabinet committee which could conduct a speedier study and investigation by utilising the relevant government departments and private bodies, he added.

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He said that the Cabinet committee would be able to obtain information that would enable it to formulate policies to curb such incidents

Dr Mahathir said that a commission of inquiry like that set up following the disaster at the Bright Sparklers fireworks factory in Sungai Buloh usually took a long time to complete its task because it had to undergo various legal and other processes.

He however said that the Cabinet would hold a discussion on whether or not to set up a commission of inquiry into the Highland Towers condominium collapse tragedy.

A Cabinet decision would be made on the matter, he added.

The Prime Minister also reiterated his gratitude to all parties who had assisted in the search and rescue operations.

He said that such assistance had somewhat reduced the burden shouldered by those affected by the tragedy. -- Bernama

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