

▼20/07/17-04MST

CNS6893

U GE 20-07 00183 EA663

aae tbe

(P)

Mahathir-Chakrapong

CHAKRAPONG TO LEAVE ONCE THIRD COUNTRY ACCEPTS HIM

bm

94

PULAU PINANG, July 20 (Bernama) -- The government will ask Prince Norodom Chakrapong of Cambodia to leave Malaysia once a third country is prepared to accept him, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He also said that France is one of the countries being considered.

Dr Mahathir said the Cabinet, which held its weekly meeting here today, discussed the position of Chakrapong who had come to Malaysia following an abortive coup in Cambodia. Chakrapong has since denied involvement in the coup attempt.

He also said that the meeting, which took more than three hours from 9 a.m., also discussed various current issues but he declined to elaborate.

Dr Mahathir had said yesterday that the government wanted Chakrapong to leave as soon as possible while the Cambodian government had informed Malaysia that Chakrapong should leave Malaysia before the visit soon of Cambodia's co-prime ministers Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen. -- more

ANR KHY MGN

▼20/07/16-12MST

CNS6857

R GE 20-07 00222 E754

REPEAT aae tbe

Mahathir-Chakrapong 2 (last) Pulau Pinang

Asked about the recent claim by the opposition Democratic Action Party (DAP) that it championed Malay interests in Pulau Pinang, Dr Mahathir said the DAP had the right to do so because the country practised democracy.

On claims by the party that it now had 11,000 Malay supporters in the state, he said he hoped that Malays who supported the DAP would obtain its help.

He said that for a long time the DAP had been interested to get Malay support but Malays did not easily accept the party owing to its communal nature.

"If there are Malays who accept the DAP, we cannot stop them because the country practises democracy," he said, adding that if the Malays wanted to allow themselves to be used by DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Sianq, that was their own business.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat and Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik were among the ministers who attended the meeting.

Dr Mahathir chaired the Cabinet meeting on the last day of his three-day visit to Pulau Pinang. -- Bernama

ANR KHY MGN

▼20/07/17-12MST