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Mahathir-DCA

DAP PETITION SEEKING LIONG SIK'S REMOVAL MEANINGLESS, SAYS PM

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LANGKAWI, Aug 25 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today described as meaningless a DAP petition to the government seeking the removal of Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik as transport minister over the fire which destroyed the radar system of the Kuala Lumpur airport on Aug 13.

He said that if the DAP wanted to protest against anything, it can turn it into an election issue and allow the people to determine who will emerge the victor.

"There is always a DAP petition. For the slightest reason, the party will resort to obtaining the signatures (petition) from the people. It has people who will always sign the petition," he told reporters when met after he had opened a meeting of Asean agriculture and forestry ministers, here.

Dr Mahathir said it was impossible for Dr Ling to have control over everything because he had to depend on feedback from the officials entrusted with specific tasks. -- more

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▼25/08/15-435MS

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On the transfer of DCA director-general Datuk Zaludin Sulong on the order of the Cabinet, he said the transfer did not involve a reformation in the DCA but was a normal transfer.

Asked to comment on news reports quoting Zaludin as having said that he was the best man to administer the DCA, Dr Mahathir said:

"There is a difference of opinion between him and the Cabinet. He considers himself the best person, the Cabinet thinks otherwise ... this is normal. Many people say they are very efficient but others say otherwise. It is a matter of one's own opinion."

On the views of some people that the DCA director-general should be a person with technical knowledge, Dr Mahathir said that was not important.

He said the important thing was that the person heading the department should genuinely show an interest in administering it well. -- more

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"At times we can have a professional, at times a non-professional with some knowledge of flight procedures can also be the manager," he said.

He said the government had not decided who would replace Zaludin, and in a lighter vein said that the government would transfer out the director-general again until the right candidate was found.

He said the biggest lesson learnt from the incident was that officials must be efficient in maintenance though in this case the maintenance of the radar system was in the hands of the contractor.

"I am disappointed that when the incident happened, I was not informed. Initially, it was said that the fire was small, that it was a bush fire when the airline companies are losing so much now. We must not make a big incident small," he said. -- Bernama