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Mahathir-Rahim

GOVT TO PROBE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST RAHIM, SAYS PM

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LANGKAWI, Aug 25 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the government will investigate the widespread allegations relating to the personal problems of Umno Youth leader Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik, including his so-called involvement with a schoolgirl.

He said action would be taken against the Melaka chief minister if the allegations are proven to be true.

The prime minister said Rahim had told him yesterday that the allegations were not true but he (Dr Mahathir) wanted to get a report from a third party.

"Yes, he met me to say that he considered the accusations as lies but that is his version. As for me, I have to know from a third party whether there is any truth in the allegations," he said in reply to reporters' questions after opening the 16th meeting of the Asean Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry at the Langkawi Island Resort, here.

Asked who the third party was, Dr Mahathir said: "The third party is usually the government agencies which investigate such matters." He did not name the agencies. -- more

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Mahathir-Rahim 2 (last) Langkawi

Yesterday, the Utusan Malaysia newspaper reported that Rahim was expected to give up the post of Umno Youth leader owing to personal problems.

Asked to comment on the report yesterday, Rahim described the matter as "a speculation that needs no comment".

Newspapers today reported that Rahim also denied that he would resign and had said that he had no serious personal problems which warranted his resignation.

Dr Mahathir said he would wait for a report from the officials investigating the matter.

He said: "Officially, I have not received any report ... I have just heard some stories."

Dr Mahathir said that at the moment he would be unable to pass judgement before he had obtained sufficient evidence.

"If I pass judgement now, it will be unfair. But if we get evidence to show that the allegations are true, definitely we will take action. In the meanwhile, I do not want to comment," he said. -- Bernama

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