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Mahathir - letters

ACTION AGAINST JUDGES IF THEY ARE INVOLVED, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, April 9 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the government will not hesitate to take action against any judges found to be involved in the writing of a poison-pen letter against his fellow judges in the country.

He said that if there were any truth to the allegation that the poison-pen letter was authored by a judge, then he would not fit to be a judge as those holding such respectable office should not be doing such a thing.

"If you had written the poison-pen letters, I wouldn't care much. But, if it is true a judges wrote the letter, someone whom we entrusted our judicial system with, then how are we going to face such a judge?" he said in response to questions from reporters at the Parliament House here.

In this respect, the Prime Minister said the government need to investigate the poison-pen letter which had been widely distributed or else it could erode the people's confidence in the country's judicial system.

Dr Mahathir said the poison-pen letter about the judges was unlike other poison-pen letters because it involved an institution having the absolute power to pass sentence, including the death sentence.

"If someone appears in court tomorrow, how can he trust the judge who had written a poison-pen letter, that is if it is true that such letter is written by a judge," he added.

But, Dr Mahathir said the case would be closed if investigation carried out by the Attorney-General Datuk Mohtar Abdullah showed that no judges had any part in the author of such letter.

Asked whether any judges had been questioned in connection with the letter, he said he had yet to receive report on the investigation from the Attorney-General.

But he did not dismiss the possibility of judges being interviewed during the course of the investigation.

"We have to investigate because it involves accusation against the judges. If judges are not involved then we'll close the case," he said.

--Bernama

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