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Mahathir-AWSJ

JOURNAL'S ALLEGATIONS ON PERWAJA BASELEES, SAYS PM

LANGKAWI, Feb 16 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today dismissed allegations by Asian Wall Street Journal (AWSJ) that Perwaja Steel would plunge Malaysia into an explosive business scandal.

He said the allegations were baseless as they (the journal) knew nothing about Perwaja.

"They can say what they want to say. I am not interested in their opinion as we manage our own affairs better than theirs,"

"They want to allege, go ahead but they know nothing about Perwaja. We know how to manage Perwaja and we don't need their advice," he told newsmen upon arrival at the Langkawi International Airport, here, to break the fast with the people.

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on AWSJ's report which claimed that the problem-ridden Perwaja would plunge the Malaysian government into an explosive business scandal.

The article, which quoted an internal company report, also claimed that the company was unable to pay its creditors and was insolvent.

The allegations were highlighted by AWSJ in their latest issue under the headline "Steel Fiasco May Rattle Malaysian Government".

Asked about the performance of the company, Dr Mahathir said: "We have some problems but we can solve it,"

"Now which one do you want to believe? You want to believe this journal which has nothing good to say about us or you want to believe us,".

"Last time they said that this country was going to the dogs and now they are talking about deficit and Malaysia is going to be like Mexico... well, we'll see whether Malaysia is going to be like Mexico or not,".

Dr Mahathir said the foreign journals and newspapers had claimed that Malaysia was always in trouble.

"They claim that Umno is in trouble, that I myself am (involved) in fighting and all sorts of things and you still want to believe them?"

"They also claim that the Malaysian government has about 500 million time been plunged into all kind of crises but we are still around," he said. -- Bernama

ZAA JK