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Mahathir-Timor

ORGANISERS OF TIMOR CONFERENCE OUT TO EMBARASS M'SIA

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 17 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the action by certain groups in organising the Second Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor recently was aimed at embarrassing Malaysia besides straining Kuala Lumpur-Jakarta relations.

The Prime Minister said the move by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in organising the Conference on Nov 9 was not to help the people in East Timor.

"Are they certain that by holding the conference East Timor would be independent?" he asked.

"There is no possibility...(the Conference was being held) merely to embarrass us because it will strain relations between Malaysia and Indonesia," he told reporters at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport, Subang upon his return from a 16-day visit abroad.

He was commenting on the involvement of the Youth wings of Umno, MCA and MIC in the Malaysian Peoples Action Front (MAF) which demonstrated against the conference and prevented it from being held.

The Prime Minister said the purpose of organising the conference and inviting foreigners to participate in the conference was politically motivated.

"If there is a possibility of (the conference being a) success, then it's okay...But it was purposely being held in Malaysia and inviting foreigners for political reasons. This is the dream of the old socialists," he added.

"Have they achieved their goal? Their main thing is how to embarrass Malaysia," the Prime Minister said.

When asked whether the action of the MAF had embarrassed the country, Dr Mahathir said: "What is there to be ashamed of...but maybe it (the demonstration) had gone beyond what was originally planned."

However, Dr Mahathir said this did not mean that he condoned the action of the MAF. -- BERNAMA

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