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Mahathir-TNB

PM SAYS GOVT WILL PROBE ALLEGED ABUSES IN TNB

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 12 (Bernama) -- The government will investigate claims of mismanagement and abuse of power in Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) detailed in an internal audit report, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said action would be taken if the claims were proved to be true.

So far, he had not received any information on it, he told reporters after making a courtesy call on General Than Shwe, the Chairman of the Myanmar State Law and Order Restoration Council, at Hotel Istana here today.

He was accompanied by Defence Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar, who is the Minister-in-attendance during the five-day visit by Gen Than Shwe who arrived today.

The Star newspaper today reported that a 34-page report prepared by TNB's board audit committee chairman Datuk Hanifah Noordin listed 50 shortcomings in the utility company.

The audit report cited faults in the tender evaluation process and weaknesses in departments while the alleged abuses included apparent surveillance and tapping of telephones of certain employees.

On the appointment of Sirim Director-General Datuk Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Ali as chief executive of TNB to replace executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Ani Arope, the Prime Minister said "Tajuddin's task is to make a thorough examination of all the problems, weaknesses and strengths in Tenaga Nasional".

He said the measure was to ensure more effective management in the company which came under severe criticisms over the Aug 3 peninsula-wide blackout, the second massive power failure in four years.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir met Gen Than Shwe for half an hour and they discussed issues of common interest to their countries. -- BERNAMA

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