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Mudslide-Mahathir

PM SAYS NO CONSTRUCTION WORK AT MUDSLIDE DISASTER AREA

KOTA KINABALU, Aug 30 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the government will investigate the cause of the mudslide at the Pos Dipang Orang Asli settlement near Kampar in Perak.

The mudslide occurred late yesterday and police have so far confirmed having recovered 12 bodies.

Another 37, mostly Orang Asli, are missing, according to Perak Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib.

The Prime Minister dismissed the possibility that the disaster was caused by construction work in the area.

"As far as I know, there is no construction in the area since it is an Orang Asli settlement. There can't be any construction work there. Things like this (the mudslide) sometimes still happen," he told reporters here.

Dr Mahathir is in Sabah to attend the National Day celebrations which this year are centred here.

He said the government will provide relief aid to the victims of the disaster and their families.

Asked on the government's feelings about the incident, he said: "The government is not blaming anybody. We have to see what actually happened.

"A disaster like this can still happen whatever actions we take (to prevent it). We can't predict where it will happen."

He said that although natural disasters which occurred in Malaysia were not as terrible as those in other countries, the government would still try its best to prevent them from happening.

-- BERNAMA

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