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Mahathir: It's an attempt to sabotage Anwar

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday described allegations of a sex scandal involving his deputy as absurd and politically-motivated.

He said the allegations were obviously an attempt to sabotage Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"Apparently, because people think that he is likely to succeed me.

"An attempt is being made to paint him black so that he won't succeed," Dr Mahathir said in response to questions from the press.

He was asked if he had received a letter accusing a "senior minister" of being involved in a sex scandal.

He was later asked if the allegations were directed at Anwar.

"Yes, I received a complaint, but it was too absurd to be believed.

"Even the person who wrote the letter has said it is not true," the Prime Minister said yesterday after flagging off the Proton 300km Merdeka Day Race carnival at Shah Alam, Selangor.

"I know there is an attempt to sabotage a certain personality. It's not known who's behind it.

"Anyway, there is no evidence at all. It's just the usual fitnah (slander)," he added.

He said the police looked into the matter and found there to be no case. Asked if he had ordered an investigation into the matter, he said: "No. I received a report on this and I am quite satisfied with the report."

When asked the nature of the allegations, he said: "Sex. It's always that."

But even the writer of the letter has denied the contents of the letter, Dr Mahathir said.

"Yes, this person wrote the letter. (But) somebody dictated the letter. The letter was written in a language beyond the capacity of one of the writers. Obviously, somebody has been moving around and making these allegations for certain groups. It is totally political. There is no truth in it.

"The person who was supposed to have written the letter later on decided that there was no truth (in it). Of course it relates to some events but it was interpreted the wrong way.

"For example, if you see somebody going somewhere you can always say that he is going to do certain things but you actually don't know. But for political purposes, it is good of course to make full use of such things.

"For example, I always take pictures with some girls next to me but this does not mean that I have any affair with the girls. Everybody wants to take pictures with me."

At this point, the Prime Minister was asked if the allegations were directed at apparently because people think that he is likely to succeed me.

"An attempt is being made to paint him black so that he won't succeed. That's all."

Dr Mahathir said he believes the allegations will not damage Anwar's reputation.

"Unless somebody is very stupid to believe such ridiculous accusations against him," he said.

On whether he had met Anwar to ask him about the accusations, he said: "There is no need to ask that. What I do is my business. But I know as

much about this thing ... you don't need to ask me that."

Asked if he regarded the case as closed, he said: "The case is now closed."

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