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MAHATHIR:COUNTRY UNDER CONTROL DURING MY LEAVE

By: Zainoor Sulaiman

OKAYAMA, JAPAN, July 21 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that during his absence on two months leave abroad, the situation at home has always been under control.

"Although I'm not in Malaysia, I'm in regular contact with (Acting Prime Minister) Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim," he told Malaysian journalists covering the prime minister's working visit to Japan here today.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled home tomorrow.

The prime minister said he constantly followed internal developments back home and they were not critical to warrant his immediate return.

He said he had regular discussions or casual conversations with Anwar via video teleconferencing.

Dr Mahathir said he went on leave to clear the mind.

"When we are away we can see the situation back home more clearly," he said.

"We tend to miss the forest for the trees," added Dr Mahathir.

-- Bernama

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