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No discussion on Umno charter review, says PM

Kamarul Yunus

DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Umno has not discussed any possibility of reviewing its constitution to extend the tenure of all posts in the party from three to five years or more.

"This is just a hearsay. We have not discussed this," the Prime Minister and Umno president told reporters after visiting several development sites in Langkawi yesterday.

Terengganu Umno liason committee chief Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad early last month proposed that the tenure be extended as members are involved in too many elections before the party's general election.

Dr Mahathir has been in Langkawi since Monday when he launched the inaugural five-day Langkawi Oshkosh East Fly-In convention and exhibition.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir expressed his satisfaction on the progress of the RM65 million International Shooting Range Malaysia at the foot of Gunung Raya in Langkawi.

KLK Sdn Bhd managing director Kamal Shafie said the company expects to complete the shooting range complex by the end of the year, in time before the Commonwealth Games scheduled September next year. KLK is the complex contractor.

"We have developed some 40ha of the 200ha sites allocated for the complex. In fact, the physical structure of the complex is almost completed," he told reporters after Dr Mahathir's tour of the complex.

Besides the shooting range, Dr Mahathir also viewed the progress of the renovation and landscaping works at Galeria Perdana in Kisap, Malaysia Book Village in Lubuk Semilang, and Kompleks Budaya Kraf in Teluk Ewa.

Works on the renovation and landscaping of Galeria Perdana, a museum housing several items presented to the Prime Minister, started early this year and is expected to be completed by next month.

Continental Action Sdn Bhd is undertaking the renovation and landscaping works at the Galeria Perdana.

Twenty-one artisans from Uzbekistan are also involved in the RM1 million project to design and undertake the carvings of the interior of the roof.

Dr Mahathir also said he may or may not want to meet American currency trader George Soros, the "rogue speculator" he held responsible for the speculative attacks against the ringgit and other Association of South-East Asian Nations' (Asean) currencies.

Soros had said he was prepared to meet the Prime Minister to clarify his position.

"It is not a question whether (Soros) is willing or not.

"It is a question of whether I am willing to meet him," said when asked if he would meet Soros.

Soros had also proposed a public discussion with Dr Mahathir on the issue.

He denied his company was involved in the speculative attacks on Asean currencies, including the ringgit.

Asked when he will meet Soros, Dr Mahathir said: "I don't know. I have not decided. I will inform you (on the decision)," he said.

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