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Mahathir-Anwar

NO TRUTH IN LETTER ALLEGING ANWAR'S INVOLVEMENT IN SEX SCANDAL, SAYS PM

By: E. Sivabalan

SHAH ALAM, Aug 24 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today there is no truth in a letter alleging that Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was involved in a sex scandal.

The prime minister said there was an attempt to sabotage Anwar's image through allegations that Anwar was involved in a scandal.

Dr Mahathir was asked by reporters about rumours that he had received a letter recently from someone claiming that a senior minister was involved in a sex scandal.

"Yes. The allegation is against Anwar Ibrahim," he said after flagging off participants of the Proton 300KM Merdeka Race and Carnival at the Shah Alam circuit, here.

Asked about the allegations in the letter, he said: "All types, sex, this, that."

"There is no truth in it." he said.

"There is no evidence at all and it is just the usual fitnah (slander)," he added.

Dr Mahathir said the writer himself had denied the contents of the letter.

Hence, the case was now considered closed after police investigation.

Dr Mahathir said he had received a report on the matter and was "quite satisfied" with it.

"So, case closed, no need to ask anymore," he said.

The prime minister said the allegations could have been made against Anwar to stop him from succeeding him (Dr Mahathir) in the future.

"Apparently, because people think that he is likely to succeed me, an attempt is being made to paint in black so that he will not succeed," Dr Mahathir said.

He said he did not believe that the allegations would damage Anwar's image "unless somebody is very stupid to believe such ridiculous accusation against him".

Asked if he had asked Anwar to explain the matter, Dr Mahathir said; "There is no need to...But I know as much about this thing."

Asked to elaborate on the letter, Dr Mahathir indicated that it could have been written by more than one person.

He also said it appeared that someone else had dictated the letter.

"Somebody dictated the letter because the letter is written in a language that is a little bit beyond the capacity of one of the writers," Dr Mahathir said.

He described the attempt by these people as totally politically-motivated and reiterated that there was no truth in the letter.

The prime minister said: "The person who was supposed to have written the letter later on said that there was no truth."

"Of course, it relates to some events, but it was interpreted in the wrong way. For example, if we see somebody going somewhere, you can always say that he is going to do such a thing but you actually don't know.

"But for political purposes, it is good of course to make full use (of the letter). For example, I take my picture with some girls next to me, it doesn't mean that I am having any affair with the girls...it's always like that. I was once linked with a Chinese woman in Singapore," he said. --

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