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Mohamed-Media

FOREIGN MEDIA OUT TO TOPPLE MAHATHIR'S GOVT, SAYS MOHAMED

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 9 (Bernama) -- Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said today he suspects that the foreign media is conspiring to bring down Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's government by playing up the issue on the dismissal of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from the government and Umno.

He said the foreign media seemed to have some political agenda on Malaysia to force some kind of reformation to undermine Dr Mahathir's leadership and bring down the government.

"If they (Malaysians) think Dr Mahathir is wrong they can decide during the general elections.

"If they think Anwar is right then they can decide. But today Anwar is out of the government and the party, and he is expressing his unhappiness everywhere using foreign media," he said, answering questions from foreign journalists after officiating the Main Press Centre (MPC) of the Commonwealth Games XVI, here.

He said the ousted deputy prime minister might be able to convince the foreign media but Malaysians would not be easily influenced.

Mohamed also accused foreign media of being one-sided in their reports of the political developments in the country because they only reported the views of those who opposed the government.

"If you ask people who oppose the government then what they say does not necessarily reflects the feeling of all Malaysians. The majority of people in this country support the government although some may not agree with the government's actions," he said.

On press freedom in Malaysia, he said the government imposed no regulation on the local press except on sensitive issues which could affect national security.

"The local papers condemn almost about everything. I have also been condemned for saying things which I felt was right," he said.

He said the government believed in the freedom of the press as long as the reports were responsible and fair.

Mohamed also said Anwar had not been charged in court "but the foreign media is making like Anwar has been punished...there is some kind of political agenda out there."

-- BERNAMA

YBK ABG