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PM: Difficult to prevent publications

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said it was difficult for the Government to prevent completely the printing and distribution of publications like 50 Dalil Mengapa Anwar Tidak Boleh Menjadi Perdana Menteri (50 Reasons Why Anwar Cannot Be Prime Minister).

In a written reply to Senator Datuk Zainudin Maidin, Dr Mahathir, who is also Home Minister, said there were irresponsible publishers who distributed such publications.

Zainudin had asked what the Government planned to do to ensure that such books did not get written, published or distributed in the future.

According to the Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984, a person can publish and distribute books without the authorisation from the Home Ministry.

"However, if the contents of the books disturb the peace, safety or moral of the public, the book can be banned by the ministry," Dr Mahathir said.

He said the ministry constantly stepped up law enforcement on published material under the Act.

Zainudin also asked if the ministry was investigating the publication of the book and whether there was any conspiracy.

Also in a written reply, Dr Mahathir said court action was being taken.

"For the moment, police are conducting investigations into some of the complaints received about the book."

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