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Mahathir-Rahim

RAHIM HAS THE RIGHT TO SUE RUSLAN KASSIM, SAYS PM

SHAH ALAM, June 22 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Thamby Chik has the right to take legal action against an Umno member for allegedly making false accusation against the former Melaka Chief Minister.

"I don't have any comments (regarding Rahim's intention to sue). It's his right to do what he wants....so long as he adheres to the law," the Prime Minister said.

Rahim had announced earlier today that he would be suing Ruslan Kassim, a party member from Negeri Sembilan, for alleging at the Umno general assembly on Saturday that the publisher of a book discrediting Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim had used the business premises belonging to him (Rahim) and his wife.

Dr Mahathir said he had advised delegates to the Umno assembly that they must be responsible when making speeches.

"I had at the very outset spoken on the need for us to be responsible. We shouldn't accuse other people as otherwise they will take action and then we get angry," he told a news conference after opening a reception to honour the one millionth customer of EON, the distributor of the national car.

Meanwhile, Mahathir said the government would continue to publish the list of those awarded privatised projects and government contracts if they people wanted so.

"But the people too must reveal things, don't just ask the government to do so. The press too must disclose things including about currency traders. Everyone should know who are the ones trading," he said.

-- BERNAMA

AZH SK