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Mahathir-Documents

ANWAR CAN EXPOSE ALL THE GOVT DOCUMENTS HE HAS TAKEN, SAYS PM

SEREMBAN, Aug 13 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim can expose all the government documents he has taken with him and the government will see what he can do with them.

He said that the government knew that Anwar had hidden away documents but does not know the specific documents until he takes them out and reveal them.

"If he wants to take them, he wants to expose them, he can expose them...we will see what he can do," he told a news conference at the end of his two-day visit to Negeri Sembilan, here.

Asked to comment on newspaper reports quoting Anwar's former political secretary, Mohamed Ezam Mohamed Nor, that six boxes of government documents were being kept overseas, Dr Mahathir said he believed that Anwar would seek the support of the foreign media and foreigners if the government were to initiate action against him under the Official Secrets Act (OSA).

"If we were to take action, the foreign media will condemn as a being cruel, undemocratic and other things" he said.

Dr Mahathir said that he did not think that the exposure of the documents would affect the chances of the Barisan Nasional in the coming general election because the people would not elect people who cheated the government when in the government.

"The question is that he has taken boxes of letters which should only be kept in a government office. I think he took away the six boxes of letters to be used for his personal politics...he must have taken them when he was in service," he said.

The prime minister said that when Anwar was removed from the government and the party, the police did not allow him to enter his office except under police escort and he could only take his personal effects and definitely could not take away any letters.

"Therefore, if he has letters with him, he must have taken them away for quite some time...collecting all the letters and this shows that he already has plans to use the letters.

"So, if he says that others have conspired against him, in actual fact he was the one with a plot," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the fact is that Anwar had intention to use the letters to blackmail certain people.

He said that if Anwar had not been removed and eventually become the prime minister, the letters would be used by him to force certain people to obey him or he would expose them.

The prime minister said that the foreign media had high praises for Anwar whereas he knew very little about finances and had destroyed the country's economy.

The foreign media and foreigners had stated that he was a financial expert, he said.

Dr Mahathir said that even though Anwar was not a foreign agent, he sympathised with foreigners and they considered him to be more qualified to be the prime minister of the country.

"We all know that he was the one who destroyed the country's economy by following the instructions of the IMF (International Monetary Fund)," he added.

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