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Mahathir-Wan Azizah

DR MAHATHIR LASHES OUT AT WAN AZIZAH FOR SEEKING FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT

ALOR SETAR, April 30 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today lashed out at Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail for seeking foreign involvement in resolving problems in the country.

The Prime Minister said: "It appears that there are people who think that foreigners should interfere in our domestic affairs.

"We thought that our country is free and independent and Malaysians will determine the fate of the Malaysian people themselves but we find that they are keen to get support from foreign countries," he told reporters on arrival at the Sultan Abdul Halim Airport, here for a three-day visit to Kedah.

He disclosed this when asked to comment on the visit by the wife of former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to Manila yesterday to seek political support from the Philippines to bring about reforms in Malaysia and alleging that her husband was a victim of a corrupt system.

"Barisan Nasional and Umno will not seek foreign help. We believe in the people of Malaysia. Only Malaysians have the right to determine the fate of the Malaysian people," said Dr Mahathir.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia had never interfered in the internal affairs of other countries.

"On the contrary, if we want to intervene in the problems in the Philippines, there are many Filipinos seeking our help, but we don't want to meddle in the domestic affairs of other people," he said.

Asked whether the Philippines' acceptance of the visit by Dr Wan Azizah would affect the spirit of cooperation among Asean member countries, Dr Mahathir said it was up to the Philippines.

On the claim by Dr Wan Azizah while in the Philippines that her husband was a victim of the Malaysian judicial process, Dr Mahathir said Dr Wan Azizah had the right to speak while the government had the right to deny it.

The Prime Minister also said Malaysia upheld the country's laws.

Anwar is now serving a six-year jail sentence after the High Court found him guilty on four counts of abuse of power.

"We uphold (only) if the decision favours us, it does not mean upholding the law.

"People talk about the rule of law but if the law hits on them and they find it to their disadvantage, then they will no longer trust the law," he said.

Dr Mahathir said: "I trust that if the court had decided that he was innocent, I believe that they will think very highly of the judge today."

"So, it's not the law, not its implementation that is important. Whether we receive anything or otherwise. If (we) receive...good, if (we) don't receive...(it's) no good," he added.

-- BERNAMA

JM ZA AO