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Tajol-Internet

IGNORE INTERNET MESSAGES ON DR MAHATHIR, FAMILY

JERTEH, April 23 (Bernama) -- The people should not believe Internet messages on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Cabinet members and their families alleging that they have stashed millions of ringgit overseas particularly in the Swiss bank.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Tajol Rosli Ghazali said the messages were blatant lies deliberately posted in the Internet without evidence to smear the leaders' names.

He said the latest message posted on the Internet several days ago said several Cabinet members including himself had each US\$2 million in a Singapore bank.

" The people should not believe such things as Dr Mahathir had taken action to check the accounts of every Cabinet minister and none of them have oversea accounts as alleged," he told reporters after opening the Besut Umno division delegates' meeting here today.

He said he was prepared to donate all the money to charity if it was true that he had that much of money in a Singapore bank.

In his speech, Tajol Rosli said Umno members were aware that self-centred members have no place in the party.

He called on party members to be united and rally behind the party although leaders would come and go.

Meanwhile in MUAR, Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin denied claims that he had US\$7 million in fixed deposits in an American bank in Singapore.

He said the claim made in an Internet message recently also listed him as among the richest man in Malaysia.

"I'm alleged to have US\$7 million in fixed deposits in an American Bank in Singapore which will mature in five years. This is a grave slander," he told reporters here today.

Muhyiddin said this showed that the slanderers used whatever available means including the Internet to topple someone.

" This is done by certain groups with malicious intent so that the people will lose confidence in the government's leadership," he said.

Muhyiddin said they used the Internet as they knew it had a strong influence on the people.

He said his denial was not a political statement as he was aware of adverse messages about him on the Internet which required his explanation.

He did not rule out the possibility that such messages were aimed at toppling the government in the coming general election.

" What's clear is that the messages are blatant lies to mar the reputation of certain leaders in the eyes of the international community," he added.

-- BERNAMA

ND SO/MKO TS