

15 MAR 1999

Mahathir-Sanusi

MAHATHIR DENIES THAT SANUSI HAS RESIGNED

KUALA LUMPUR, March 15 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today denied that Tan Sri Sanusi Junid has resigned as Kedah Menteri Besar and expressed regret that the Internet had been used to spread the lie.

"I like to deny...I don't know. Many speculations," he said when asked to comment on Sanusi's statement yesterday denying rumours on the Internet that he was resigning.

Dr Mahathir said he only got to know about the matter from the newspapers today and he also denied that there were moves to change the leadership in Kedah and Perlis.

Asked whether the rumours arose from the appointment of former Kedah menteri besar Tan Sri Osman Aroff as his personal representative in Kubang Pasu last month, he said Osman was appointed because of his experience.

"Previously I had no personal representative there. I'm busy and need an experienced person. Osman has been there as the Umno division deputy chief since long ago but he became menteri besar...now he is longer one and that's why I appointed him," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this at a news conference after a delegation meeting between Malaysia and Poland at the Prime Minister's Department, here. The Polish delegation was led by its President, Aleksander Kwasniewski.

Dr Mahathir also quashed the assumption that Osman was leaning towards the opposition since relinquishing the menteri besar's post to Sanusi.

"He's an Umno die-hard. Even if boiled three times, he'll still say he's Umno," he said.

The prime minister also expressed regret that in this country the Internet was used more for spreading lies and causing trouble.

"Previously I thought that the Internet would bring many benefits. But now it has become a favourite channel for (spreading) lies...previously it was poison-pen letters," he added.

He said others used the Internet to increase their knowledge but Malaysians used it to destroy themselves and their country.

-- BERNAMA

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