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MAHATHIR DISAPPOINTED WITH RAHIM FOR HITTING ANWAR

DHAKA, March 2 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has expressed disappointment with former Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Rahim Noor for assaulting former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"That is apparently what he has admitted to doing," Dr Mahathir said in response to a question at a news conference after the end of the second summit of the group of eight Islamic developing countries (D-8), here, today.

Rahim, who recently stepped down as the country's top police officer to take responsibility for the beating of Anwar, told the Commission of Inquiry investigating Anwar's injuries today that he slapped Anwar under provocation.

He also said that the act was not prompted, directed or abetted by anyone and that he could not remember delivering other physical acts against Anwar.

On what action should be taken on Rahim, Dr Mahathir said: "It is not for me to decide what should happen to him.

"The due process of law should take its course (and) the person responsible for this, the Attorney-General, will decide to take action.

Asked whether he would testify if called before the commission, he said he would do so as this is what the law states.

-- BERNAMA

MR JK