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Mahathir-Wife

MY WIFE IS OKAY, SAYS MAHATHIR

By: Abdul Muin Abdul Majid

VICTORIA FALLS (Zimbabwe) Oct 3 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali is recovering from a torn ligament in her right shoulder.

"She's recovering now...she needs to rest her arm for a long time," he told Malaysian journalists after taking a cruise along the Zambezi river together with other African leaders attending the 3rd Southern Africa International Dialogue (SAID '99), here.

"Otherwise, she's all right. I rang her up just now," he added.

Dr Mahathir said doctors had told her that it might take up to three months for the arm to regain mobility.

"The trouble with her was that when she first tore her muscle, she did not get proper treatment. And she was shaking hands with thousands of people while following behind me," he said.

Dr Siti Hasmah did not accompany her husband on his just-concluded trips to New York and London.

In dismissing rumours that Dr Siti Hasmah had suffered a stroke, Dr Mahathir said he was puzzled why people would still want to believe such a malicious rumour.

"It's like the foreign correspondent that tells us our country is going to explode or become bankrupt. However, this does not happen. But when he writes once again, people believe him.

"I don't understand why people want to believe people who tell lies....such as that I went to Mecca but couldn't perform the haj," he said.

Asked about the general election, Dr Mahathir said in a light vein: "While I am here, there won't be any election. I will be going to Durban for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, we will be hosting the World Cup Golf, hosting Formula 1, so you can write off all those things.

"The press has become smart now, they can calculate when are the school holidays, when it is a Saturday, (Hari Raya) Puasa, Chinese New Year... you calculate-lah and then tell me. Then we hold the election."

-- BERNAMA

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