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Mahathir-Al Ma'unah

AMIN THOUGHT MALAYSIANS READY TO TOPPLE GOVT -- MAHATHIR

PUTRAJAYA, July 24 (Bernama) -- The leader of the Al-Ma'unah group dared to stage the arms robbery at two army camps on the assumption that many Malaysians are ready to topple the Government, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Mohamed Amin Mohamed Razali thought his action early this month would trigger chaos in the country and bring down the government, said the Prime Minister.

"He saw people in other countries rioting every day and the government then collapsing - and this is what he was hoping for," Dr Mahathir said when asked to comment on a statement by Amin's master in Indonesia, Abbas Bakir.

Utusan Malaysia reported today that Abbas had labelled Amin a traitor for tarnishing the group's reputation besides indulging in black magic and deviationist teachings.

Speaking to reporters after a dialouge with about 150 representatives of women's organisations, Dr Mahathir said what Amin hoped for did not materialise because Malaysians did not wish to create chaos and topple the government.

Amin led 14 other Al-Ma'unah followers in staging the arms heist at two army camps in Gerik on July 2. Together with more followers, he then took refuge in Sauk before all of them surrendered on July 6.

Dr Mahathir said he was informed that the teachings propogated by Amin ran contrary to his master's teachings in Indonesia that were related to doing good with God's help.

"Amin clearly had bad intentions, he didn't follow the Al Ma'unah in Indonesia. He came out with his own teachings based on personalty cult," he said.

The Prime Minister said Amin regarded himself as an extraordinary person in that he was invincible and able to do anything including defeating tens of people.

"The videotape found in their office showed how people wishing to attack (Amin) could not reach him. This created a fantasy within him. He did this with the belief that his followers would be impressed with his capabilities," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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