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Mahathir-video

BAN ON VIDEO-GAME ARCADES STANDS, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the government's decision to ban video-game arcades nation-wide stays.

It made the decision after thoroughly discussing all aspects, he said.

Although he was abroad then, the decision made by the Cabinet meeting chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi remained upheld.

"We do not make decisions for fun and obviously the government has duly and accordingly debated it first," Dr Mahathir said.

Reporters raised the matter at an airport press conference in Subang near here by the prime minister on his return today from a working visit to Britain and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The prime minister was asked whether the government would review the ban following appeals by quarters concerned against the Cabinet decision.

Yesterday the Cabinet stuck to the decision it made at last week's meeting to revoke, without exemption, all licences issued to video arcades nation-wide within two months from Oct 4.

Abdullah said yesterday the Cabinet reaffirmed its earlier decision after discerning feedback and appeals from various quarters relating to the ban order.

The ban was aimed at curbing social ills caused by video-game arcades, he had said.

-- BERNAMA

MAM AFY AHH RYN