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Dr M: We are studying Opposition's action

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Government was studying whether action by the Opposition in smearing the good name of the country and its leaders overseas was tantamount to treason.

"We are studying the laws to see whether there has been any offence. It may be committed overseas, but the focus is to destroy the nation."

Citing the United Nations sanction against Iraq as an example, he said it was the people who would suffer and not the leaders. He was speaking at a Press conference at the Parliament lobby after the tabling of the 2001 Budget by Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin.

Dr Mahathir was asked about the admission by Keadilan Youth chief Mohd Ezam Mohd Nor on his involvement to tarnish the Prime Minister's name in the United States and Europe.

Dr Mahathir said Keadilan resorted to this because its leader had been jailed.

"In the past, there have been many government leaders tried and jailed. But because of this one person, they want to create trouble so that everyone suffers."

On action to be taken to counter the lies, Dr Mahathir said the Government would continue providing explanations, but there was no guarantee that investors would want to come as their governments might impose sanctions.

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