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Mahathir-Schools

FIRE INCIDENTS IN SCHOOLS DUE TO STUDENTS TAUGHT THAT WAY, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, June 26 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he believed that incidents in which students allegedly started fire in schools occur as they have been taught by certain parties to act that way.

He said that when children have been taught not to respect the law and to stage demonstrations, many of them would be inclined to take the law into their own hands.

"They are brought up that way...there appears to be people exerting influence on children in kindergartens to hate the government and not to respect anyone including teachers," he told a news conference at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang near here on his return from Egypt and Italy.

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on four incidents of fire in schools, allegedly started by students.

He said that there were parties teaching the people not to respect the law and to stage demonstrations and to confront the police on the belief that the government would not do anything.

Dr Mahathir said that when the students become adults, they would turn into a lawless society.

The prime minister said that he was concerned that if incidents of law violations become rampant, there would be no longer any respect for the law and there would be chaos in the country.

He said that such law violations were the effects of the demonstrations and attempts at challenging and confronting the police.

"If we fail to respect the law, one day, we will no longer be safe...there appears to be a trend," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that if the people now were to adopt a culture foreign to the country, it would face the repercussions.

Asked on actions to be taken, like the proposal to provide auxiliary powers to teachers, Dr Mahathir said that the government had to be careful on the matter.

He said that the government could not just provide such powers to certain groups.

They should instead respect the law, he said.

"This means it has to be taught to children, to students right from school, how important it is to respect the law," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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