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Mahathir-Leadership

M'SIA STAYS STABLE EVEN WITHOUT ME AS PM, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, July 11 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he is confident Malaysia will remain stable and continue to develop without him at the helm because the government is putting in place the necessary leadership.

This would ensure that the country's development could continue even without him, he said reacting to a report suggesting instability in Malaysia in the post-Mahathir era.

He was asked about a Far Eastern Economic Review (FEER) report quoting the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) as forecasting instability in Malaysia after Mahathir's departure.

"I think that is what they are expecting, they would like. Any country that is stable, they will try to destabilise," Dr Mahathir told reporters after launching the Malaysian Structural Steel Convention and Exhibition here today.

Dr Mahathir said when people fought and killed each other, these foreign forecasters would say "the leadership of the country does not know how to run the country."

Commenting on the same report that forecast an unstable Malaysian economy in the coming years "due to the government's bail-out of certain companies during the recent economic downturn," Dr Mahathir said he disagreed with the statement.

"Their own countries used money to bail out their companies. And they are doing quite well.

"Like their motor corporation, it went down (and) they bailed it out, LTCM (Long Term Capital Management Fund) went bankrupt, they bailed it out...and they said it is good for their country. So it must be good for us also because we are copying them," he said.

Asked about the same forecast predicting a comeback by jailed former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Dr Mahathir said: "Well I don't know. I think they know something more than I do."

-- BERNAMA

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