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Mahathir-PPRT

CONDUCT THOROUGH STUDY BEFORE MAKING COMMENTS, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 14 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today advised all parties to conduct a thorough study on the alleged misappropriation of the allocation under the Development Programme for the Hardcore Poor (PPRT) before making any comments or jumping to conclusion.

He said that at this juncture, it was still not clear whether or not the PPRT allocation had been misappropriated.

"We cannot prejudge anything. We need to know the background of what actually happened to the PPRT allocation," he told reporters at the Deepavali open house of MIC president and Works Minister Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu here.

Dr Mahathir said that action would only be taken when there was incriminating evidence against those involved.

"Only if there are incriminating evidence will action be taken but we cannot take action before we could determine how they are implicated," he said.

Dr Mahathir was commenting on press reports on allegation of misappropriation of PPRT allocation by two companies handling PPRT projects in Kelantan and Terengganu.

The case was widely reported after it was exposed by Rural Development Minister Datuk Azmi Khalid recently.

According to Azmi, two police reports had been lodged following detection of malpractices involving investment of some RM40 million in the implementation of PPRT projects.

Yesterday, former Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa told a news conference that stern action should be taken against those involved in the alleged misappropriation.

He also said that there was some confusion over the case as reported by the media.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Norian Mai meanwhile said yesterday that police investigation was focused on whether criminal breach of trust or cheating had been committed and identifying those involved in the case.

-- BERNAMA

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