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Mahathir-OIC

DR MAHATHIR ONLY PROPOSED TO HEAD OIC MISSION ON TERRORIST ISSUE

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 16 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he was only proposed to head an Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) mission to tackle the terrorist issue and was not appointed by the OIC.

The prime minister said one of the leaders of an OIC member country, a Saudi Arabian prince, had proposed that he head the mission.

"I have not been invited by the OIC," he said when clarifying his position on the issue at a media conference after launching Permodalan Nasional Bhd's unit trust, Amanah Saham Nasional 3 Imbang (ASN3), here.

Last Sunday, TV3 quoted Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar as saying that Dr Mahathir had been picked by the OIC to head the mission but Syed Hamid later clarified that what he had said was that he would not be surprised if Dr Mahathir was asked to lead the effort in view of the prime minister's standing and views.

Asked by reporters whether he would accept it if he was appointed by the OIC for the job, Dr Mahathir said: "I don't think I'm capable. It's a big matter."

Asked to comment on two Parti Keadilan Nasional leaders who no longer wanted to continue in their party posts, Dr Mahathir said this was because the party did not have a meaningful struggle and only had one objective, namely to free Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"It only wants to fight for one matter and not to develop the nation or to make a better life for the people," he said.

He said that when the Keadilan members realised that the struggle was no longer meaningful, they would not be with the party.

Keadilan Youth vice-head Hamdan Taha announced his resignation from the post yesterday while earlier the party's deputy president, Dr Chandra Muzaffar, said that he would not defending his post in the party elections.

On former Umno leaders who joined Keadilan and now want to return to Umno, Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, said: "I want to know their stand... don't want (them) to go in and out (of Umno)."

-- BERNAMA

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