

06 AUG 2001

Khalil-patriotic

GOOD PATRIOTIC MALAYSIANS WILL NOT TURN TO FOREIGNERS, SAYS KHALIL

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 6 (Bernama) -- Good patriotic Malaysians will not invite foreign interference to determine the fate of their country, said Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob today.

As such, he said the government had not expected some Malaysians, who claimed to fight for justice, to have the temerity to reveal the country's domestic problems to outsiders who actually had ill-intention against Malaysia.

"I wish to state that patriotics Malaysians will not do such a thing because patriotic Malaysians have dignity and credibility to build and develop this country on their own without interference from outside," he said at the ministry's monthly gathering at Angkasapuri, here.

In this respect, Khalil said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as a true Malaysian patriot because of his determination not to leave the fate of Malaysians in the hands of outsiders, like what was happening in several countries.

Although many still regarded conditions in Malaysia as far from perfect, the country still offered the best of hopes to Malaysians especially those who knew how to be grateful, he said.

Khalil dismissed the notion that Malaysia was inviting foreign interference when it established external ties in various fields including military.

"Our patriotism will not be less spirited even when we have dealings with foreigners whether in the field of military," he said.

He said the government was aware of allegations levelled at the country's leaders, accusing them of being unpatriotic for conducting joint exercise with foreign troops.

Malaysians with high patriotic spirit had condemned such allegations, he said.

Malaysia's recent joint exercise with the American troops had been distorted by the opposition for their selfish interest.

--BERNAMA

MAM ZS ABG