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Mahathir-Indonesia

INDONESIAN CRISIS IS REPUBLIC'S OWN PROBLEM, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, July 23 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the current political development in Indonesia is the republic's own problem and it is the right of Indonesians to take whatever decision.

"It is Indonesia's problem and we hope whatever they do brings good to Indonesia. It is the Indonesians own right according to their own laws," he said.

Dr Mahathir told reporters this when approached here today on the latest development in Indonesia which saw vice president Megawati Sukarnoputri taking over the presidency after the People' Consultative Council voted to oust president Abdurrahman Wahid.

The prime minister earlier launched the Women and Family Development Ministry's campaign against violence in society.

Dr Mahathir was also asked about Malaysia's stand regarding its ties with Indonesia following Megawati's installation as the republic's new president.

"We have relations with the government that is recognised as the government of Indonesia. We do not decide which one we want to recognise," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said Malaysia was concerned over Indonesia's stability in the wake of the current turmoil.

"We are concerned that Indonesia should be stable," said Dr Mahathir.

The prime minister also hoped that Indonesia would be spared from violent upheavals following reports that Abdurrahman's supporters were out to create disturbances.

"There had been talks about some attempts at violence...I hope not," Dr Mahathir added.

-- BERNAMA

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