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Sarawak-Mahathir (terrorists)

IT'S OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PUT TERRORISTS IN JAIL, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

SEMOP (Sarikei Division) Sept 24 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said it would be the responsibility of the Malaysian government to put those suspected of being terrorists by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in jail if they were proven to be so.

The Prime Minister said that if they had committed the crimes in the United States, they would be sent there.

"But if they had committed the crimes in the country, it will be the responsibility of the government to deal with them," he told reporters after opening the RM55-million water supply project here.

He was responding to questions from reporters on whether Malaysia would face action from the United States if it failed to hand over people suspected of being terrorists.

Dr Mahathir said he was not sure if any such request had been received from the United States and that he only learnt about it from newspaper reports.

The United States reportedly had asked nine Arab and muslim countries including Malaysia to hand over hundreds of people suspected to be terrorists.

He had earlier in his speech also touched on the terror attacks on the World Trade Centre (WTC) towers in New York and the Pentagon in Washington on Sept 11.

He said those responsible must be hunted down and brought to justice.

"But unfortunately the innocent, and many of them, will be the victims, if indeed the United States is to attack Afghanistan for harbouring the terrorists concerned.

"I hope this will not happen...many innocent people will be the victims," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said that despite having a multi-racial, religious and culture population, Malaysia was very fortunate as its people were generally tolerant of each other.

"Of course, there are a handful who are not, and who are desirous of creating anarchy in the country but we are able to keep them under check, arrest them and put them in jail," he said.

--BERNAMA

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