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Mahathir-Plot

MAHATHIR SAYS HE'S NOT AWARE OF ALLEGED PLOT TO KILL HIM

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 25 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he knows nothing about an alleged plot to assassinate him and his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as reported by a newspaper today.

"I don't have any information about that...normally when there is anything serious the police will inform me," he said.

Dr Mahathir said such reports should not be taken seriously being just press reports.

"This is just a report in the newspaper...I don't know they got this news," he told reporters after attending a Christmas open house at the residence of Roman Catholic Archbishop Rev Anthony Fernandez in Jalan Bukit Nanas here.

Dr Mahathir said this when asked to comment on the front page story in The Sun newspaper. Quoting unnamed sources, the report said police had uncovered a plot by a number of local politicians to kill the two leaders using a hired hitman.

Asked if such reports could undermine his position as the prime minister, Dr Mahathir said he did not think so.

He said there would not be any extra security for him in the wake of the report as the existing security measures were sufficient.

On the claim that a group of unnamed local politicians were behind the conspiracy, Dr Mahathir said: "I don't suspect anybody."

Asked to comment on a similar threat that appeared on the Internet last year, he said there were various threats on the Internet including about bombs in his residence.

"We should take notice (of such threats), we don't dismiss just like that. But if it reaches the stage where we are not able to work, then it becomes difficult," he said.

The Prime Minister was also asked if Malaysia would reach a stage where leaders were killed.

"I hope this doesn't happen...this is not our culture, but we don't know," he said, referring to the case of former Lunas state assemblyman Joe Fernandez who was shot dead in Bukit Mertajam a year ago.

On the possibility of the plot reported today having any connection with the so-called Kumpulan Militan Malaysia (KMM), Dr Mahathir said the group did have the intention to kill certain people.

But most of the KMM members had been arrested and currently detained under the Internal Security Act, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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