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Mahathir-Misuari

NUR MISUARI'S DEPORTATION DEFINITELY ON, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

CHANGLOON, Dec 20 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will not renege on its undertaking to deport disgraced former governor of the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao Nur Misuari, who fled from there and entered the country illegally after declaring war on the Philippine government last month.

The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the government had pledged to deport Nur Misuari and would honour that undertaking.

Nevertheless, he said the government was prepared to consider Nur Misuari's request for political asylum reportedly sent to Kuala Lumpur by his lawyer Elly Pamatong.

When approached by reporters here today on the latest development relating to the Nur Misuari issue, Dr Mahathir however said he has yet to see such a letter.

"We shall study it. We have given our undertaking to detain and deport any person involved in terrorism who enters our country... that is our promise, we cannot renege on that promise," he said.

The prime minister was approached after attending the wedding of the daughter of the Kubang Pasu Umno division secretary Shamsudin Ahmad at the Felda Batu Lapan community hall here. Dr Mahathir is head of the division and the Kubang Pasu Member of Parliament.

A newspaper report today quoted the Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar as saying that Malaysia's responsibility was limited to handing over Nur Misuari back to the Philippines.

Dr Mahathir said the government would have to be firm in handling the Nur Misuari case in accordance with the law as it did not wish to see a recurrence of the incident.

Stressing that the government has not decided when to deport Nur Misuari, he said Nur Misuari should not have come to Malaysia after mounting a revolt against Manila as this only created problem for Malaysia.

"He should not have come to this country after creating trouble back home.. by fleeing to this country he puts us in a spot as we do not wish to be at odds with any one," Dr Mahathir said.

Misuari was arrested by Malaysian authorities in Pulau Jampiras off Sandakan for illegal entry on Nov 24.

Today's wedding was between Shamsudin's daughter Naritashema, 23, and Syed Rizan Syed Nordin, 24, both teaching in Penang.

The prime minister's wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali and Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain were also present.

-- BERNAMA

MZM RYN