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Mahathir-PPRT

PM EXPRESSES REGRET OVER ALLEGED MISAPPROPRIATION OF PPRT ALLOCATION

PUTRAJAYA, Nov 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today expressed regret over the alleged misappropriation of some RM40 million allocated for the Development Programme for the Very Poor (PPRT).

He said it was regrettable that those allegedly responsible could have committed a wrongdoing over a measure taken to put things right.

"We (the government) embarked on putting things right, those making disbursements committed wrongdoing...no matter what we do, people will take this and that advantage," he told reporters after a dialogue attended by some 2,000 religious teachers here.

Asked to comment on a report in a Malay language daily today that part of the allocation had been utilised during the 1999 general election campaign in certain constituencies in Kelantan, Dr Mahathir said that the government would wait for the outcome of investigations into the matter.

"We'll have to wait...we need to verify such reports. Some people will resort to all sorts of things but when demanded, there is no proof," he said.

In Kuala Lumpur, Bukit Aman CID Chief, Datuk Salleh Mat Som said that the police would announce at a media conference next Monday the outcome of their investigation into the alleged misappropriation of the PPRT allocation and the case of corrupt practice involving Tabung Haji deposits amounting to RM8 million.

"We will announce the outcome of the investigations into the PPRT and Tabung Haji cases and another big case which is going to be shocking," he told a media conference at Bukit Aman.

It is understood that police are identifying individuals believed to be involved in both cases.

Last Friday, police detained a company director in Penang to assist in investigations.

The case is at present classified as cheating under Section 420 of the Penal Code.

-- BERNAMA

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