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Mahathir-Perwaja

PM HOPES BREAKTHROUGH IN PERWAJA PROBE WILL RESULT IN SOME ACTION

KOTA KINABALU, Feb 12 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today expressed hope that the breakthrough in investigations into the Perwaja Steel fiasco will result in action being taken to speed up the solution to the matter.

However, at the same time, the prime minister said, the government would also want to see the steel corporation revived.

"Yes, we hope to have the solution and I hope that the information that we are getting from (the) Swiss (government) can result in some action," he told a news conference here at the end of his two-day visit to Sabah.

Dr Mahathir was asked whether he could see a speedier solution to the issue now that the Swiss government had already agreed to cooperate in the investigations.

Yesterday, Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) Director-General Datuk Ahmad Zaki Husin was reported as saying that the agency had obtained the cooperation of the Swiss government in the probe into transactions of a Swiss bank account in which Perwaja funds were allegedly deposited.

Ahmad Zaki also said that with the Swiss government's agreement on the matter, the ACA would be able to conduct detailed investigations on the alleged abuse of Perwaja funds.

Dr Mahathir however said that the latest development into the investigations was with regard to Perwaja's management in the past but there were also other issues involving the steel corporation.

"As far as Perwaja is concerned, there is a different issue...we want to revive Perwaja and the government has decided that if we find some ways of privatising Perwaja to a party that can manage (we will do so)," he said.

On whether any parties had shown interest so far, Dr Mahathir said: "Yes...there has been some interest but we have to see that our national interest is maintained".

-- BERNAMA

JS RM