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Abdullah-Bush

PRIME MINISTER HAS NEVER SOUGHT FOR MEETING WITH BUSH

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 1 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has never indicated his desire to meet with Presiden George W. Bush, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

He said the Prime Minister had also never sought for a meeting with the President of the United States.

Abdullah was asked to comment on the report by the magazine, Far Eastern Economic Review, which said that US officials would only give permission for Dr Mahathir to meet with Bush if several conditions were met.

The conditions included giving permission to Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to undergo medical treatment abroad and freeing six leaders of Parti Keadilan Nasional (Keadilan) who were being held under the Internal Security Act (ISA).

According to the report, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar had held a meeting with the US Secretary of State Colin Powell to discuss the meeting between the two leaders.

Abdullah explained that Syed Hamid's trip to the United States was for other purposes and not to discuss the meeting.

He criticised certain groups in the United States who were always looking for excuses to hit at the Malaysian government by presuming that the opposition were not given the freedom of expression or were not getting votes and support in the general election.

"Don't they know that in Malaysia the opposition also win in the general election and form the (state) governments? They pass comments as though they do not know what is happening in our country," he added.

-- BERNAMA

ZAI ZAI AO