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Mahathir-Problems

REFRAIN FROM RAISING ISSUES NOW, SAYS PM

LANGKAWI, April 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the people should not raise issues now because the country is already facing a lot of problems.

"Let's not raise other issues as we already have a lot of problems," he told reporters here after attending a briefing on the progress of the Tanjung Lebung yacht building and repair yard project here.

He was asked to comment on a new report today that the Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) has called for a nationwide picket on May 12 over what it claimed as "a lack of sensitivity to contributors' interest" on the part of the Employees Provident Fund (EPF).

Dr Mahathir said that staging a picket was not a way of overcoming problems.

He was however leaving it to the MTUC to decide whether or not to proceed with the picket.

"It is up to them...if in that way they feel the nation's economy can be improved, then go ahead," he said.

Asked whether he would meet with the MTUC over the matter, Dr Mahathir said: "They did not request for a meeting, just make an announcement...then it's difficult to meet".

Commenting on the statement by the Indonesian government that its embassy here committed an error by attending the closed-door briefing last week held by Keadilan president Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, Dr Mahathir said that he welcomed the explanation.

"We do not have problems in accepting the explanation because we always wish to have good relations with our neighbours," he said.

Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister Alwi Shihab has admitted that its diplomat committed an error because of its failure to cross-check the status of the meeting and believed that it had clearance from the Malaysian government.

-- BERNAMA

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