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Mahathir-Clashes

SITUATION UNDER CONTROL, PUBLIC NEED NOT FEAR, SAYS DR M

KUALA LUMPUR, March 10 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the situation in Taman Desaria and in surrounding areas off Jalan Klang Lama, the scene of gang clashes between rival groups, was under control.

"I can assure the people that the police will look after the situation," the prime minister told TV3.

He said the clashes were an isolated incident.

The police would ensure that there was no repeat of the incident, he said.

"It will settle down," he said.

Deputy Inspector-General of Police Datuk Jamil Johari said 70 people have been arrested since clashes broke out on Thursday night.

So far, three people have died and 18 others injured, including five seriously, he said.

Jamil also said there was no reason to impose curfew in the affected areas.

He said police seized parangs, knives, samurai swords and ice hooks.

Dr Mahathir said the clashes are said to have started after irresponsible people floated rumours that Indians were attacking the Malays.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir briefed the Sultan and Sultanah of Johor who visited the federal administrative centre complex in Putrajaya.

-- BERNAMA

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