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Mahathir-Riots

SOME PEOPLE PLANNED TO SPARK RIOTS TO TOPPLE GOVT, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA SELANGOR, April 13 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today some quarters think they have the right to use force in the name of democracy and justice to bring down the government.

The Prime Minister said these people planned to spark riots to achieve their objective.

"The government is aware that some quarters plan to stage riots using explosives and other things to topple the government.

"We know that they have gone to a neighbouring country and told their friends there that they wished to carry out what happened in that country... riots caused by irresponsible people to topple the government.

"That's their intention, purportedly to seek justice and democracy," he told a meet-the-people session attended by about 5,000 people at the Malawati Sports Complex Indoor Stadium here.

Dr Mahathir expressed regret that when the authorities enforced the law to safeguard peace and security, they were criticised by people who claimed the action was a violation of human rights.

The authorities had to act as there were people trying to break the law, he said referring to the detention of seven persons under the Internal Security Act on Wednesday and Thursday for allegedly planning street demonstrations.

The Prime Minister also hit out at PAS leaders saying they always championed democracy but did not stop their supporters from participating in street demonstrations that could lead to rioting.

"Fadzil Noor (the PAS president) talks about democracy but at the same time allows his supporters to take part in demonstrations," he said.

These people actually did not understand the meaning of democracy, said Dr Mahathir.

Dr Mahathir said that in carrying out their duties, law enforcement authorities would have to use force if those breaching the law resorted to force.

"There is no other way to control the situation if any group resort to violence," he said.

The Prime Minister said police never acted in an extreme manner except against those who who ignore their orders.

He said the country would suffer if the authorities could not exercise their rights to enforce the law.

--BERNAMA

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