

Mahathir: Hatred will lead to more terrorist attacks

STAR 15 OCT 2002

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has described the Bali bomb blast as "very unfortunate" but warned that such attacks will go on as long as people harbour hatred.

The Prime Minister attributed the terrorist attacks to the fact that no attempt had been made at all to trace the causes of anger which made people even willing to blow themselves up.

"Instead, we see more things being done to increase the anger of people," he said yesterday after opening the Federal Territory Barisan Nasional convention.

He said that terrorist attacks were not a good way to fight for any cause as it was not planned for ultimate victory but to exact revenge and retaliation.

He also said that Malaysia could not guarantee that such terrorist attacks would not happen here.

"We have 12mil tourists

coming here in a year and we cannot check everyone and look at their shoes and behind their ears," he said.

However, he said that Malaysia had taken various measures to counter terrorist acts, including detaining suspects under the Internal Security Act.

On whether the Bali blasts would affect the investment climate here, Dr Mahathir believed it would because people would feel less secure.

"You can have all kinds of security measures but people will continue to feel insecure because there is no security measure that is foolproof," he said.

He however noted that Malaysia now did not get much foreign investment in any case.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Norian Mai urged Malaysians to stay calm and not to be unduly worried as the security forces were taking measures

to reduce the chances of a terrorist attack.

He said that security at all "sensitive" places, including foreign embassies, had been increased as a precaution in the wake of the bomb blasts in Bali.

Norian Mai said the police were waiting for intelligence reports from their Indonesian counterparts.

An initial report was expected in a couple of days, he said, Bernama quoted him as telling reporters at his office.

He said the reports were vital in helping police to take measures to beef up security not only at "potential targets" but also in other areas.

He said Indonesian police had confirmed that no Malaysian was among the dead identified so far.

He said Malaysian police were also working closely with their counterparts in Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines in sharing intelligence on suspected terrorists.