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Myanmar-Razali

DR MAHATHIR TO DISCUSS VARIOUS ISSUES WITH MYANMAR'S LEADER

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 7 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Myanmar leader Gen Than Shwe are expected to exchange views on the latest development in Myanmar during the Prime Minister's official visit to Yangon on Aug 18.

Besides exchanging views on the current development, both leaders are also expected to discuss problems and opportunities for Asean, said Tan Sri Razali Ismail, the United Nations' special envoy to Myanmar and special adviser to Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Speaking to reporters after delivering a keynote address at a business seminar here today, he said Dr Mahathir is also expected to exchange views on what Malaysia can do in Myanmar's industrialisation and modernisation plans.

"Dr Mahathir will bring Malaysian showcase on the best Malaysian technology to Myanmar and exchange ideas and views on what is happening there and also in the Asean region," he said.

Asked whether Dr Mahathir would meet opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi during his two-day official visit there, Razali, who had just returned from his eighth trip to Myanmar, said: "No idea...Suu Kyi may want to see PM."

On Monday, a local daily had reported that Dr Mahathir was expected to meet Suu Kyi at the invitation of the opposition leader.

However, Dr Mahathir yesterday said that his visit was at the invitation of the Myanmar government. He declined to say whether he would meet the opposition leader.

Razali, assumed his post in 2000 as the personal representative of U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, to broker talks between the military government and Suu Kyi with an aim at promoting national reconciliation and political reform.

On Suu Kyi, who was released from house arrest in May by the military junta, Razali said the opposition leader is doing well as there was no restrictions imposed on her.

"She is more positive now. She can travel...It's like breathing fresh air for her. She has gone out there to meet people and was well received," he said.

Razali said Suu Kyi and the military government are getting together to have an important discussion on the future of the country.

Asked whether Suu Kyi can travel overseas, he replied: "When the times comes, she herself may come and see the Asean countries...I don't know, there is a possibility in the near future."

-- BERNAMA

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