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Mahathir-Terrorists

PM BELIEVES MILITANTS IN SINGAPORE LINKED TO MILITANTS IN M'SIA

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he believed that the militant network operating in Singapore is linked to the network suspected to be operating in Malaysia.

He said that the government found that it had links with the terrorist groups in Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia.

"It is linked with Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. I believe Singapore is also (linked)...but I do not have the facts," he told reporters after the Treasury's Aidilfitri open house here.

He was asked to comment on whether a group of 15 terror suspects arrested by the Singapore government is linked to the Kumpulan Militan Malaysia (KMM).

Referred to a statement by the Singapore government yesterday that members of the militant movement in the republic had stored four tons of ammonium nitrate, a chemical used in the making of bombs, in Malaysia, Dr Mahathir said that he had yet to receive the facts on the matter.

The Singapore government, in outlining the arrest of members of the militant movement yesterday, stated that former Singapore businessman Faiz Abu Bakar Bafana, 36, now a Malaysian, arrested with 14 others by the Singapore authorities last month suspected of being terrorists, had stored four tons of the chemical in the country.

The group is also said to have links with with the clandestine Jemaah Islamiah requested to obtain 17 tons of ammonium nitrate to make truck bombs.

However, the group's plan was foiled when a member, Mohamed Elias Mohamed Khan, was detained in his attempt to purchase the chemical.

The prime minister, in a special interview with the Japanese magazine "Chuokoron" published yesterday, was quoted as saying that the government had information that 50 Malaysians linked with the KMM had been identified as having links with the Al-Qaeda terrorist network led by Osama bin Laden.

Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali was also present at the function.

-- BERNAMA

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