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Mahathir-Koizumi

MAHATHIR AND KOIZUMI TO TERRORISM ISSUE

PUTRAJAYA, Jan 9 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he will discuss terrorism as well as several issues of joint interest with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi at their meeting here tomorrow.

"Maybe issues on education and human resources highlighted by Asean + 3 will also be discussed," the prime minister told reporters at the Home Ministry's Hari Raya gathering here.

Koizumi is scheduled to arrive here tomorrow for a one-day visit to Malaysia as part of his tour of several Asean countries.

He is also scheduled to visit the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore. This is his first visit to the region since becoming prime minister last June.

Dr Mahathir said he and Koizumi would also discuss bilateral and economic issues.

Asked about the arrest of a Malaysian citizen by the Singapore authorities for alleged terrorist activities in the republic last month, he said the government would request for the extradition of Malaysian citizens arrested overseas if they were proven to be involved in criminal cases.

"Extradition is normally for criminal cases, and for other cases we normally don't extradite them," he said.

The Malaysian, a 39-year-old businessman and a former Singaporean, was arrested with 14 others under the republic's Internal Security Act (ISA) between Dec 9 and Dec 24 last year.

Dr Mahathir said the Malaysian government was looking into the charges that the Singapore government had against him before taking any further action.

Once investigations confirmed that the Malaysian was involved in criminal cases, the government would request for his extradition, he said.

Asked to comment on the resignation of Malaysian diplomat Datuk N. Parameswaran as Chief-of-Staff of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (Untaet), Dr Mahathir said he needed to look into the reasons for his resignation.

"I would like to find out what he said in his report," he said.

Parameswaran has cited alleged intervention from Untaet's higher-ups and the mission's "white" policy as reasons for his resignation which takes effect from Sunday.

Asked on the "white" policy raised by Parameswaran, Dr Mahathir said: "I don't know, I have to find out."

-- BERNAMA

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