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MANILA YET TO APOLOGISE ON RAPE ALLEGATION

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 15 (Bernama) -- Manila has yet to apologise to Malaysia for its rash action over the allegation by a 13-year-old girl that she was raped while being held at a temporary detention depot in Sabah.

Charge d'affaires of the Philippines embassy here, Luis Cruz had faxed to Manila news reports on the apology.

Cruz, contacted by Bernama today, said he had not received any reply from Manila.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said yesterday the Philippine government should apologise to Malaysia after the girl, earlier said to be a Philippine national, turned out to be a Malaysian.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad also sought apology today from Manila but Cruz said he had no knowledge about.

The rape allegation gained Dr Mahathir's attention after President Gloria Arroyo wrote to him, asking the Malaysian government to investigate the allegation.

-- BERNAMA
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