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Mahathir-Jerusalem

US MOVE TO RECOGNISE JERUSALEM AS ISRAEL'S CAPITAL UNWISE

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 6 (Bernama) -- The United States' move to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital will increase anger among the Palestinians and Muslims in general, the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Jerusalem known as Baitulmuqadis to Muslims has always been the chief city and capital of Palestine and is sacred to Muslims, Christians and Jews.

Calls have been made to make it in an international city with sovereignty over it remaining in the hands of the Palestinians. Previously West Jerusalem was under Israel and East Jerusalem under Palestine control but the Israelis recently took over East Jerusalem as well.

"It doesn't help especially at this time. It doesn't help at all, just pouring oil on fire. This will increase the anger of the Palestinians and doesn't help the fight against terrorists," the Prime Minister said.

"We are increasing the causes for terrorism," he said at a media conference after opening the People's Progressive Party 49th Annual General Meeting at Putra World Trade Center (PWTC) here.

President George W. Bush signed legislation on Monday requiring the US administration to identify Jerusalem and not Tel Aviv as Israel's capital.

On the role of the UN Security Council with regard to the unilateral moves of certain members states, he said, the council was powerless.

"Nothing can be done in the Security Council, it is totally paralysed," said Dr Mahathir.

Replying to questions, the Prime Minister said police received many reports and they need to give priority to certain cases and investigations at times took much time in view of the difficulties encountered in the course of the probe.

He said cases would be brought to court if there was sufficient evidence.

Investigations were aimed at ensuring justice and not aimed at ridiculing anyone, he said.

-- BERNAMA

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