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Mahathir-US

US TREATMENT OF ABDULLAH AN UNHEALTHY TREND, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

MELAKA, Oct 3 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the treatment accorded Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi by United States officers at the Los Angeles Airport last month is an unhealthy trend.

The prime minister said that although he too had come across rude US officers, when it happened to Abdullah, it showed an unhealthy trend of not respecting anyone.

On Sept 15, Abdullah had to take off his shoes for checks at the Los Angeles Airport en route to New York to attend the United Nations (UN) general assembly.

On the regret expressed by the US embassy here over any inconvenience or inappropriate treatment that he and Abdullah may have experienced during their visits to the US, Dr Mahathir said the statement was enough for him.

"Enough. For me, it's sufficient. I didn't even mention it until it happened to Abdullah," he told a media conference after opening the Third Malay and Islamic World Convention in Tanjung Kling, here.

"We didn't even protest, it's people's country," he said.

On his experience with a rude US officer when he arrived in New York in a Malaysian executive jet en route to Washington, Dr Mahathir said: "I've been to America for a long time. Surely I won't bring along a bomb in the government's private jet."

In the incident, the US officer who boarded the jet, had said harshly that no one was to move until all the Malaysians had been checked.

Besides Dr Mahathir and Abdullah, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar and several senior government officials had also been subjected to strict checks at the Los Angeles airport.

-- BERNAMA

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