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Mahathir-Labs

DON'T BLOW COMPUTER LAB ISSUE OUT OF PROPORTION, SAYS DR M

PUTRAJAYA, Jan 5 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the government should be given a chance to study the problem of delays in the school computer laboratory project.

He said no one including the media should blow the issue out of proportion.

"Don't keep harping on this matter...give us a chance to study why it happened," he told reporters after attending the Foreign Ministry's Aidilfitri open house here today.

Dr Mahathir said the government was facing problems when issuing contracts because there were too many aspects to be considered.

"If in other countries, the contract is awarded to the best, usually the biggest man; he will do a good job," he said.

"But in Malaysia, we want to consider small contractors, Bumiputera contractors, whether they are eligible or not...so it is difficult," he said.

Therefore, he hoped that the issue of four contractors failing to deliver school computer laboratories on time would not be blown out of proportion.

"We will study this matter and try to solve the problem. This is something new; previously there were no problems. The government had built hundreds of schools before this," he said.

Dr Mahathir said it did not mean that students could not use computers in schools without computer laboratories as computers could be placed in classrooms.

"But, sometimes our people cannot do work if there are no specific places," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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