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APPLYING PRESSURE ON MYANMAR "UNPRODUCTIVE", SAYS DR M

PUTRAJAYA, June 12 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today applying pressure on Myanmar government, which is currently holding pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi under detention, will be "unproductive".

"It is not constructive if we keep on pressuring people. Whenever they comply with something, there's no reward. If they do something else, more pressure is applied. It's unproductive," he told reporters after launching a book on the founding father of Umno Datuk Onn Ja'afar, here.

He was asked whether constructive engagement by Asean vis-a-vis Myanmar was still the best way to go in light of the current situation in that country.

A wire report today also said that US Secretary of State Colin Powell had turned up pressure on Myanmar's military rulers over the detention of Nobel laureate Suu Kyi.

The report quoted him as saying in an article published in the Wall Street Journal that he would seek action from Myanmar's Asian neighbours at a meeting next week.

The military government reportedly took Suu Kyi into what it called "protective custody" during a trip to the north on May 30 after violent clashes erupted between her supporters and government henchmen.

-- BERNAMA

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