

07 AUG 2003

MAHATHIR-BOMB

BOMBING INCIDENT IN JAKARTA WILL NOT AFFECT COUNTRY'S GDP

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 7 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today gave assurance that the Tuesday bombing incident in Jakarta would not affect the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

Malaysia is expected to see a GDP growth of 4.5 percent this year.

He said Malaysia has taken the precautionary measures and would continue to tighten security to ensure that such incidents do not take place in the country.

He said the country had taken security measures even before the Sept 11 incident.

Recollecting how several parties had labelled Malaysia as being cruel for adopting the Internal Security Act (ISA), he posed this question: "Which (approach) should we choose? Let the bomb explode, then arrest or arrest even before it takes place?"

Asked if the approach taken by the United States in dealing with terrorism had any relation to the matter, he said that he did not want to put the blame on anyone.

He said the US' approach would not reduce terrorist threats and that the threats would continue to be there as long as the underlying problem was not addressed.

"Even if we take the precaution, we would be able to relax for a while then it would start again," he added.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir officially named Malaysia's second earth observation satellite as RazakSAT in honour of Malaysia's second prime minister, Allahyarham Tun Abdul Razak.

RazakSAT is a medium aperture camera satellite with the capacity to capture digital images at a 2.5m (panchromatic) and 5.0m multi-spectral.

The satellite is being jointly developed by Astronautic Teknologi (M) Sdn Bhd and Satreci Co. Ltd from South Korea.

RazakSAT is expected to be launched in mid August 2004. -- BERNAMA

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