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DR MAHATHIR: M'SIA WANTS SUU KYI RELEASED

PUTRAJAYA, June 10 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that it has always been Malaysia's stand that Myanmar's pro-Democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi should be released from detention by the country's military junta.

"We have made our stand known that Aung San Suu Kyi is to be released immediately," the Prime Minister told newsmen after chairing the pre-Budget 2004 dialogue at the Ministry of Finance, here today.

Dr Mahathir said this when asked to comment on United Nations special envoy Tan Sri Razali Ismail's meeting with Suu Kyi for an hour at the junta's headquarters today.

Razali, who had said that Suu Kyi was unhurt, however gave no details on casualties from clashes late last month in which her supporters said up to 75 people had died.

On a question whether Malaysia would apply pressure for the release of Suu Kyi, he said, "I do not know...as to whether we can apply sanction. We do not indulge in that kind of pressure."

This recent development in Myanmar might also have some effect on Asean, Dr Mahathir added.

-- BERNAMA

RIZ AO