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Mahathir-Terrorism

MALAYSIA TO INTENSIFY SURVEILLANCE AGAINST TERRORIST ATTACKS

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 7 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the government will intensify surveillance in the country to prevent incidents like Tuesday's bomb blast in Jakarta.

He said that the government was always on alert against any threat to the country.

"In Malaysia, we're always on alert and now we'll intensify our surveillance to make sure in Malaysia such incidents will not happen," he told reporters after naming the country's second national microsatellite as "RazakSAT", in honour of Malaysia's second prime minister, the late Tun Abdul Razak, at Astronautic Technology (M'sia) Sdn Bhd (ATSB) in Technology Park Malaysia, Bukit Jalil, here.

The Jemaah Islamiah has reportedly owned up to the car bomb attack on the United States-run hotel which killed more than 10 people and injured about 150 others including a Malaysian.

The Prime Minister said that he did not think that the incident would have an adverse impact on the country's economy.

Dr Mahathir said that the government had taken measures against threats to national security which in fact had been initiated before the Sept 11 2002 attacks on the United States but was strongly criticised for its actions.

"Everybody knows we've taken measures prior to Sept 11, we were in the forefront in such matters. At that time, Malaysia was denounced as being oppressive for detaining and arresting suspects. So, they will now know which is better, to make arrests after the bombings or to make arrests before the blasts," he said.

The Prime Minister also said that such incidents would continue to happen for as long as the root causes of terrorism were not tackled.

"For as long as the problem of terrorism is not resolved, we'll continue to face such problem," he said.

Dr Mahathir was also asked whether the failure of the US to successfully resolve the West Asian crises had led to the series of terrorist attacks.

"We don't want to say they're to be blamed but we feel that the approach adopted by the US will not reduce the threats posed by terrorists and this will go on for years for as long as the causes of terrorism are not dealt with.

"Even if we were to take precaution, how much precaution can we take. The day we relax, it can happen again," said Dr Mahathir.

-- BERNAMA

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