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Mahathir-Threat

MALAYSIA WILL NOT FALL TO INFLUENCE, THREAT, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 29 (Bernama) -- Sounding as defiant as ever, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said that Malaysia will not succumb to any undue influence or threat from outsiders.

The outgoing Prime Minister said that Malaysia was being run according to its own interest and would stick to doing things its own way.

"We run this country in our own interest. As you know, we do things our own way and others cannot influence us or threaten us," he told reporters after attending a function at the Prime Minister's Office, here.

He was asked to comment on reports that the Bush administration was against the move by the United States Senate to place restrictions on a US\$1.2 million (RM4.5 million) military training assistance to Malaysia.

The Senate's action was to show its displeasure over Dr Mahathir's remarks that the Jews controlled the world by proxy made at the recently-concluded 10th summit of Islamic leaders here.

Dr Mahathir, who retires on Friday after 22 years in office, began his response to the question with a sarcastic "Thank you very much" before explaining Malaysia's stand on the matter.

Dr Mahathir was also asked about his feelings on chairing his last Cabinet meeting this morning.

"It is a bit sad. I said goodbye to all of them (Cabinet colleagues). It is the last one that you chair, so I suppose it is very significant for me and also significant for the others who have been working with me," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that he advised the ministers to give his successor, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, all the support which they had shown him.

"I hope they will work with the new leadership so that we can further progress," he said.

On whether he would miss taking out his notebook to jot down things that needed attention, Dr Mahathir replied: "I think it is a custom that has passed on to the others. So they all have their own notebooks now and I am quite sure it will be useful for them."

-- BERNAMA

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