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Mahathir-Attacks

MOROCCO ATTACKS THE RESULT OF WORLD'S HANDLING OF TERRORISM, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, May 17 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the latest suicide bomb attacks, in Morocco, are the result of the world's handling of terrorism and terrorists.

"We've said that overcoming the problem of terrorism by killing people and by the incursion and invasion of their countries, there'll be horrible consequences. Now, let's just watch what's happening," he said.

The prime minister said that he had from the beginning stated that there should be a stop to the Israeli aggression on Palestinians as it had caused many Muslims to be angered and they want to take revenge.

"But they feel that for one of them killed, they'll kill 10. If there're more, we'll conquer your country and topple the government...it seems they can out-terrorise the terrorists.

"It may be true, but I see that there's still going to be this kind of attacks in many places," he said when asked to comment on the suicide bomb attacks in Morocco's biggest city, Casablanca, in which at least 24 people were killed and 60 wounded.

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters after attending the Workers Day 2003 rally, themed "Bersamamu Membina Daya Saing Negara" (Together With You In Boosting The Nation's Competitiveness) held at the Putra Stadium, in the Bukit Jalil Complex here.

On Monday, at least 34 people including eight Americans were killed in the suicide bombings of expatriate housing compounds in the Saudi Arabia capital, Riyadh. Three Malaysians including a couple staying at the Al-Hamra compound sustained minor injuries when they were hit by glass splinters from the blasts.

Asked on the situation in Malaysia over the possibility of such attacks, the prime minister said: "I cannot rule out completely with (regards to) Malaysia but we've taken every precaution and we know that Malaysia is safe.

"The people who are not safe are the people who attacked other countries and killed people. If they attacked and killed people, no matter where they are, they're not safe," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who is Finance Minister, was also asked on the proposed stimulus package to be announced by the government soon following the US-led invasion of Iraq and the outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

"The Iraq war is over but the economic problems have not. If after (the invasion of) Iraq, our economy is back to normal, then it doesn't matter. But we all know of the impact of (the invasion of) Iraq, the impact of SARS and the deception of the conglomerates...all these have far-reaching impact (on the nation's economy)," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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