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Abdullah-Economist

MUSTAPA ARTICLE SENT TO "THE ECONOMIST"

IPOH, May 3 (Bernama) -- An article written by the National Economic Action Council's (NEAC) Executive Director Datuk Mustapa Mohamed has been sent to the magazine, "The Economist", said Acting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today.

He said the article refuted several points in the magazine's April 5-11 edition which belittled the contribution and leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Abdullah said a letter pointing out the mistakes contained in the article had also been sent to the London-based magazine.

"The letter pointed out their mistakes which should be corrected. We shall wait for their reaction," he said after a meeting with the Perak Umno Liaison Body at the Menteri Besar's residence, here.

Among others, the magazine had concluded that Dr Mahathir could possibly be described as a failure because his dream of transforming Malaysia into a developed nation by the year 2020 as outlined in the Vision 2020, would be very difficult to achieve.

It also belittled the capability of Dr Mahathir, whom it described as a dictator, and in fact looked down on the ability of his successor, Abdullah.

The article, "The Changing of Guard - A Survey of Malaysia", was written by Christopher Lockwood.

Abdullah said that prior to this, its Editor-in-Chief had replied the letter sent by the Home Ministry.

"They are prepared to apologise if there are factual errors in the article. They also give us space to refute any of their views," he said.

Various groups, including Abdullah, had earlier asked the magazine to apologise for carrying the article.

-- BERNAMA

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