

22 MAY 2004

MAHATHIR: REGULAR CHECKS MAY PREVENT ABUSE OF DOMESTIC HELPERS

KUALA LUMPUR, May 22 (Bernama) -- Regular checks on foreign domestic helpers in Malaysia can help protect them from abuse, former prime minister

Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"People should check on what happens to these people who are employed,"

he told reporters when asked about the violence against 19-year-old Indonesia Nirmala Bonat which was reported on May 20.

"Perhaps regular reporting would stop this kind of thing," told reporters after visiting the National Planetarium here.

Asked about the suggestion by Umno branch and division members that the party's vice-president's posts be decided by consensus, Dr Mahathir said,

"It's up to them.

"If they feel like having no contest, it's their decision," he said, stressing that he is now just an ordinary member.

"It is not for me to decide. I am already out of circulation," he added.

-- BERNAMA  
SOM KHY JK