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Tsunami-Mahathir

MAHATHIR PROUD OF MALAYSIANS' WILLINGNESS TO HELP TSUNAMI VICTIMS

SUNGAI PETANI, Jan 4 (Bernama) -- Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he is proud of Malaysians who showed their concern for the tsunami victims by contributing more than was required.

Malaysians' concern and generosity had exceeded that of the people in the other affected countries for their own victims, he told reporters after visiting the villages in Kota Kuala Muda here which were hit by the tidal waves on Dec 26.

He was, however, disappointed that there were people taking advantage of the disaster to spread rumours and give false information to gain sympathy through ceramah.

"These people do not understand other people's problems. They are only interested in their own gain," he said.

Dr Mahathir was also glad that Umno, including the Umno Youth and Puteri Umno, had played important roles in the efforts to help tsunami victims within and outside the country.

On the big powers who did not donate to Malaysian tsunami victims, he said they probably assumed that the extent of the disaster in Malaysia was not very serious, compared with some other countries.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia did not require help from the big powers but was prepared to help other countries, such as Indonesia and Sri Lanka, which faced serious effects of the tidal waves.

"Helping neighbours in distress is our way," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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