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Mahathir-Rafidah

MAHATHIR SAYS DO NOT PERSONALISE AP ISSUE

SERDANG, Aug 5 (Bernama) -- The ongoing Approved Permit (AP) saga should not be personalised as it was raised in the interest of the national car industry, former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said there was no reason for International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz to be hurt because of the issue which created a thorny debate in the recent Umno General Assembly.

"It is not a question about her. It is not something between me and her (Rafidah), I am talking about Proton (Perusahaan Otomobil Nasional Bhd), the interest of Proton," Dr Mahathir told reporters after presenting a lecture titled Moving Towards A Progressive Society organised by the Rashid Foundation at Universiti Putra Malaysia here.

"It is not personal, it is not about mentor and...It is about Proton.

"But why bring these personal things. I can also say that I feel hurt because somebody who was working with me said I cannot remember things," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this in response to Rafidah's emotional reaction towards the AP issue.

"But that (emotional reaction) is irrelevant. What is important is, is it good for the nation and good for Proton, that's all," he added.

The AP controversy erupted after Dr Mahathir revealed that imported cars, brought into the country by selected AP holders, undermined the national car industry.

--BERNAMA

VP RV SS