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'Govt did not cancel Dr M's invite'

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AGONG

INSTALLATION:

Order came from Istana Negara itself, says Zahid

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THE government played no role in the cancellation of an invitation to former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad for the swearing-in ceremony of the 15th Yang di-Pertuan Agong recently.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said the government did not issue such instruction.

"We have reviewed the matter with the Prime Minister's Department and it was not involved in

withdrawing the invitation.

"I have checked with the Ceremonial Division (Bahagian Istiadat), and the order came from Istana Negara itself. They were just following orders.

"If there are people who are still not satisfied, then please come forward and face the king to seek clarification," he said after officiating the Immigration Day Celebration here yesterday.

He said it was not fair to blame the government as it was not logical for the Prime Minister's Department to issue such an order.

"Do not blame the Prime Minister's Department, Prime Minister's Office or the prime minister himself. Stop pointing fingers at others."

It was reported that Parti Pribumi

Bersatu Malaysia had accused Umno and the Barisan Nasional government for allegedly instructing the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal, Datuk

Seri Syed Danial Syed Ahmad, to cancel the invitation to Dr Mahathir to attend the installation of the 15th Yang di-Pertuan Agong at Istana Negara on Dec 13.

When asked whether Umno will lodge a police report following the allegation, Zahid, who is also the party vice-president, said it was not necessary.

"There is no need to make a police report. I have made this clarification."

The letter to Dr Mahathir dated Dec 5 went viral on social media after it was shared by Dr Mahathir's daughter, Marina. Dr Mahathir later wrote in his blog that the ceremony was part of a political event.

I have checked with the Ceremonial Division (Bahagian Istiadat), and the order came from Istana Negara itself. They were just following orders.

Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi
deputy prime minister