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## 'Escort for Dr M on case-by-case basis'

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**KINARUT:** Any traffic escort for Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in the future will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

This follows the revocation of the privilege by Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar.

Khalid, however, said the security detail provided to the former prime minister would remain in place.

"We would never put Tun Mahathir in a dangerous situation. His safety is still being looked after by police from the Special Action Unit. But it was my decision as IGP to revoke the traffic escort service. As I said last week, why did he attend the illegal Bersih and anti-Goods and Services Tax (GST) rallies as well as collect signatures for the Dr Mahathir Mohamad-Lim Kit Siang declaration, which are clearly against the law and Federal Constitution?"

"I hope he understands the position we (police) are in. We uphold the Rukun Negara, the Federal Constitution and the country's laws."

Khalid said if Dr Mahathir wanted a traffic escort for any event in the future, it would be granted provided the event was not illegal.

Speaking after a medal-presentation and appreciation ceremony for some 200 security and enforcement officers involved in Op Daulat, held at the state General Operations Force headquarters, Khalid said action could also be taken against any civilian rider escorting Dr Mahathir, adding that the public need not heed the orders of these escorts as they did not have any authority.

"I have heard of these big bikers who have offered to escort (Dr Mahathir), but such actions pose a dan-



Inspector-General of Police **Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar** (right) **handing over a medal to Jenny Halim**, the widow of Corporal Halimin Amin, who died in Op Daulat, **during a medal-presentation and appreciation ceremony** for some 200 security and enforcement officers involved in Op Daulat at the Sabah General Operations Force headquarters in Papar yesterday. Pic by Edmund Samunting

ger to themselves and other people as they are not trained, and this is against the law. We can take action against them as they would be violating traffic laws and this would be considered an illegal escort," he said.

In response, Dr Mahathir said he accepted Khalid's decision.

"It is their right to do so. The traffic escort is not a right of a retired prime minister.

"So, if they choose to give it to me or Pak Lah (Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi), it is up to them."

"I accept the decision," he said.

Meanwhile, Khalid said police were taking all possible measures to trace and arrest Muhammad Riduan Abdullah, ex-spouse of M. Indira Gandhi, for refusing to return their daughter.

"We don't have any information about whether he has left the country. We are checking that and have taken measures to ensure he is picked up," he said.

On Friday, the Federal Court ordered Khalid to execute a warrant of arrest for Riduan for disobeying a court order to return his daughter to Indira.

On another matter, Khalid told the "G25" group not to be narrow-minded about the placing of three policemen at the Selangor Islamic Religious Department (Jais).

Commenting on the recent statement from the group, which comprises retired high-ranking civil servants, that such a move was deemed to be promoting moral policing, he said there was a need to place police at Jais to coordinate efforts in handling unlawful activities that use Islam as a platform, such as the activities of the Islamic State militant group.