

Malaysia won't go to war over Jho Low, says Dr M

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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia does not intend to "go to war" to get hold of Malaysian fugitive businessman Low Taek Jho, better known as Jho Low, who is wanted in connection with the 1MDB scandal, said Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"We can go to war, but we will lose the war and Jho Low. We are conscious that we are not a very strong nation," Dr Mahathir said.

"Sometimes people are nice to us sometimes they are not. We have to accept that," he said but stopped short of identifying the country.

He said he is not updated all the time by Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Bador on the whereabouts of Jho Low.

"He told me where Jho Low was found. I would not know that and it is not every time when he knows where Jho Low is supposed to be. Once in a while, he tells me," said Dr Mahathir.

He was speaking to the media

after he and his wife Puan Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali were awarded honorary doctorates on creative arts by the National Academy of Arts, Culture and Heritage (Aswara) in conjunction with its 15th convocation yesterday.

Dr Mahathir also said the government was doing all it can to bring Jho Low back to face charges.

"We are working hard on it to get information but the information is not easy to get."

On Nov 6, Abdul Hamid said a country was aiding Jho Low and had refused to cooperate with Malaysia.

Dr Mahathir, on the same day in an interview with Australia's *Financial Times*, said the government did not know where Jho Low was and was not holding any direct negotiations with any country to extradite him to Malaysia.

Dr Mahathir, in his press conference yesterday, also slammed Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad

Zahid Hamidi for blaming Attorney-General Tan Sri Tommy Thomas for alleged "injustices".

"Previously, when people stole money, he (Ahmad Zahid) did not blame anyone. Only now he remembers to blame (others).

"When you want to blame anyone, ask yourself why did you lose (the last general election)?

"You lost because you did not blame your boss (Datuk Seri Najib Razak)," said Dr Mahathir.

On Nov 6, during a ceramah in the Tanjung Piai by-election campaign, Johor, Ahmad Zahid had reportedly stated that there was injustice by the AG.

Ahmad Zahid had questioned the acquittal of a woman who was charged with the death of eight teenage cyclists in Johor in 2017 and the release of suspects in connection with the death of firefighter Muhammad Adib Mohd Kassim during a fracas at a temple in Seafield last year.