

PM: We're working hard to bring fugitive Jho Low back

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KUALA LUMPUR: The government is working hard to bring home fugitive financier Low Taek Jho or Jho Low, who is wanted over investigations into scandals connected to 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) funds.

Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the task was difficult as his whereabouts were not known.

"I would not know (where is Low). However, we are working hard to bring him back.

"We are getting information, which is not easy to obtain.

"I am told that he has several passports and he may have done alterations (plastic surgery to) his face. But all these are rumours.

"I have no proof. But it could happen and that makes it difficult for us to trace him," the prime minister said when asked if Low was hiding in countries located in the western or eastern parts of the world.

Dr Mahathir was also asked on the statement by Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Bador, who said the country where Low was allegedly hid-

ing refused to cooperate with the authorities.

"We can go to war but we will lose, and subsequently lose (track of) Low," he said in jest.

"We are conscious that we are not a very strong nation.

"Sometimes, people are nice to us and on other occasions, they are not. We have to accept that."

Dr Mahathir maintained that he did not know where Low was although the police were aware of the fugitive financier's whereabouts.

"He (IGP) has not told me

where he is believed to be. So I do not know.

"It is not like every time he (gets information of) where Low is supposed to be, he would raise it with me.

Dr Mahathir lambasted Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who reportedly blamed the Attorney-General's Chambers on several cases, including the decision by the Sessions Court that had allowed the application to dismiss two charges related to Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)

against Seremban Jaya assemblyman P. Gunasekaran.

"Previously, when his boss (Umno leader allegedly engaged in money laundering) had stolen money, he did not blame anyone for it.

"And now (after becoming an opposition member of parliament), he has started blaming others.

"Please remind yourself why you (Barisan Nasional and Umno) lost (in the 14th General Election). You lost because you did not blame your boss."