

Dr M willing to testify before RCI on Sabah illegals
TheStarOnline
June 05, 2012
By MARTIN CARVALHO

CYBERJAYA: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad is prepared to testify if asked by the Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCI) investigating problems related to illegal immigrants in Sabah.

"I don't know what I can testify to. If I have any knowledge that they want, I am quite willing," he said at the KRU Academy launch here yesterday.

Dr Mahathir, who was the premier during the influx of illegal immigrants into Sabah, said there were circumstances in the past which resulted in the mass movement of people between the Philippines and Sabah that were difficult to monitor.

He said all this happened at a time when the Government's ability to monitor the mass movement of people from the Philippines was quite limited.

Furthermore, he added, many communities like the Bajau were very mobile and had been sailing regularly between the Philippines and Sabah in search of a better life.

"I can go to the courts to tell them whatever I know but I must admit that I don't know very much," he said.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak on Friday announced the setting up of the RCI.

On a separate issue, Dr Mahathir said the mass gathering at a PAS rally in Kedah recently did not necessarily mean support for the party in the coming polls.

He termed such events as "mass gathering for hire".

"If you pay people to come, they will come. We will see during the elections if that will translate into support," he said.

Copyright © 1995-2012 Star Publications (M) Bhd

Source:

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2012/6/5/nation/11417376&sec=nation>