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MAHATHIR - UMNO
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KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 14 (BERNAMA) -- UMNO HAS DIRECTED ALL ITS DIVISIONS TO FIND OUT HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE NOT REGISTERED AS VOTERS TO ENABLE THEM TO REGISTER WITH THE ELECTION COMMISSION, PARTY PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THE MOVE WOULD BE MADE BY PREPARING A LIST OF THOSE WHO HAVE NOT REGISTERED AS VOTERS AND SUBMITTING IT TO THE ELECTION COMMISSION.

THE METHOD WAS TO ASSIST THE VOTER REGISTRATION EXERCISE BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE ELECTION COMMISSION BECAUSE THE COMMISSION'S REGISTRATION OFFICERS COULD NOT POSSIBLY VISIT ALL THE HOUSES, HE TOLD REPORTERS OUTSIDE THE DEWAN RAKYAT TODAY.

+IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARTY TO FIND THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT REGISTERED AS VOTERS,+ HE SAID WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON A LETTER WHICH WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN ISSUED BY UMNO SECRETARY GENERAL DATUK MOHAMED RAHMAT TO ALL UMNO DIVISIONS ASKING THEM TO CARRY OUT THE MOVE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE HAD NOT SEEN THE LETTER BUT STRESSED THAT UMNO PAID SERIOUS ATTENTION TO THE VOTER REGISTRATION EXERCISE. -- MORE
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HE SAID THE DIVISIONS WERE ASKED TO SELECT MEMBERS WHO COULD IDENTIFY RESIDENTS IN THEIR DIVISION WHO HAVE YET TO REGISTER AS VOTERS TO PREPARE THE LIST FOR SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTION COMMISSION.

HE SAID ANY PARTY COULD CARRY OUT SUCH A MOVE AND +UMNO DOES NOT WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT TO OTHER PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY MAY BE FOLLOWING UMNO'S METHOD.+

HE SAID THE MOVE WAS PARTY SECRET BUT BECAUSE THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT DOES NOT APPLY TO POLITICAL PARTIES SUCH LETTERS DISTRIBUTED BY THE PARTY TO ITS DIVISIONS COULD BE STOLEN BY OTHERS.

HE SAID UMNO CONSIDERED THE REGISTRATION EXERCISE AND REVISION OF ELECTORAL ROLLS SERIOUSLY TO ENSURE ALL ITS MEMBERS WERE REGISTERED AS VOTERS AND AVOID THEIR NAMES BEING DROPPED.

+IN THE PAST THE CUTTING OFF OF VOTERS' NAMES WAS COMMONLY DONE BY OPPOSITION PARTIES, BUT WE DO NOT HAVE PROVE, AND MANY UMNO VOTERS COULD NOT VOTE,+ HE SAID WHILE CITING FORMER PAS PRESIDENT DATUK HAJI ASRI MUDA AS AN EXAMPLE.

HE SAID AFTER JOINING THE BARISAN NASIONAL, DATUK ASRI FOUND THAT HIS NAME HAD BEEN TAKEN OFF THE ELECTORAL ROLLS. -- BERNAMA
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