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Mahathir-Brunei

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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 30¹⁹⁰ (Bernama) -- The Sultan of Brunei is not involved in giving any form of assistance to political parties in Malaysia in the recent general election, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the Sultan clarified the matter when he made an unofficial visit here recently.

Speaking at a press conference after today's session of the UMNO general assembly here, the Prime Minister said the Sultan also told him that he had no intention of providing aid to any of the Malaysian states.

In his policy speech to the assembly this morning, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the claim by certain quarters that Brunei would provide aid to Kelantan was not true as the Sultan of Brunei himself had denied it.

Asked whether he would accept the invitation of Kelantan Menteri Besar, Haji Nik Aziz Nik Mat, to visit the state, the Prime Minister said: +No problem... I can visit the state... but that need not necessarily mean giving aid.+ -- more

▼30/11/19-32MST

CNS4337

R GE 30-11 00142 EA274

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Mahathir-Brunei 2 Kuala Lumpur

The government would not assist the Kelantan and Sabah governments but would continue to help the people in the two states, he added.

If the aid was channeled through the state governments they would claim that it came from them and not the Federal government and +this is what we don't want+, he said.

On the two-party system raised by some newspapers during the recent election, he said some two-party systems had failed. It was the people who practised the system who were important.

He added that the government believed in the freedom of the press and would not take action against newspapers which had raised the issue.

However, action would be taken against anyone who tried to fan racial sentiments, he added. -- Bernama

▼30/11/19-33MST