

CNS8272

U-GE 07-09 00180 EG893

eng mes

CIVICS BUREAU NOT A GOVERNMENT POLITICAL TOOL, SAYS MAHATHIR

Mahathir-bureau

b m

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 7 (Bernama) -- <sup>92</sup> ~~Dr Mahathir Mohamad~~ <sup>8)</sup> said today the National Civics Bureau (BTN) ~~was~~ established to create awareness on national policies, and not to safeguard the political interests of anyone as alleged by the opposition.

The Prime Minister said the BTN's function was to help disseminate information on government policies like Vision 2020, and to explain the role of politicians, government officers and the private sector in realising them.

He was commenting on statements by several Semangat 46 leaders that the BTN had lately been used to serve the political interests of certain people.

+Actually, when the Semangat 46 leaders were in Umno previously, they were doing this (using the BTN to further their own interests),+ he said.

+But since then (after they left Umno), we have stopped doing this,+ he told a press conference after chairing an Umno Supreme Council meeting at the Umno headquarters here. -- more

▼07/09/20-13MST

CNS8274

U GE 07-09 00131 EG894

eng mes

Mahathir-bureau 2 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir said the government disallowed opposition parties from using the services of the bureau as they would politicise it,

He said they had belittled the BTN through press statements with the intention of smearing the image of the government and Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties.

BTN was under the Youth and Training Unit of the Culture, Youth and Sports Ministry when it was formed in 1976 but has been placed under the Prime Minister's Department since 1981.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno President, said 1,750 delegates would attend the three-day Umno general assembly, beginning Nov 6.

The Umno Youth and Wanita assemblies would be held on Nov 5, he said.

-- more

▼07/09/20-17MST

CNS8276

U GE 07-09 00187 EG895

eny mes .

Mahathir-bureau 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

He said among the motions up for discussion at the assembly were the Presidential address, and economic and religious matters.

Dr Mahathir said 1.2 million members had paid their party membership fees.

, He said the Supreme Council had decided to donate \$100,000 to the Bosnia Fund sponsored by Utusan Malaysia.

Dr Mahathir said he briefed the council members on the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit which ended in Jakarta yesterday and on his meetings with several world leaders.

+I did not give a long briefing because the local press had given a comprehensive coverage of the Summit, + he added.

On Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu's statement that he would seek the Prime Minister's views on the move by some 8,000 Pos Malaysia Bhd workers to help compensate victims of the MIDFCCS share refund cheque fraud, he said: +I will wait for him to ask. he has not asked yet. I have to hear the problem before making a decision,+ he said. -- Bernama

▼07/09/20-20MST