

CNS0482

U PE 27-04 00199 ED833

aae

Mahathir - UMNO

MAHATHIR WANTS UMNO MEMBERS TO AVOID DISUNITY

bm

GENTING HIGHLANDS, April 27 (Bernama) -- Umno President Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said today the possibility of disunity arising from party elections can be lessened if Umno members remain united and accept the present line-up.

"We know that Umno became divided and was ruled illegal because of the jostling to become party president. To get posts, all types of methods will be used such as the buying over of people," he said when responding to reporters' questions after opening a seminar on business ethics organised jointly by the Harvard Club and the Permodalan Nasional Berhad (PNB) here.

He was asked to comment on the statement by Umno Vice-President Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, three days ago, that he (Anwar) would not challenge Ghafar Baba for the Umno Deputy President's post in the November party elections.

Asked whether Anwar should contest for the post of Deputy President if he received many nominations, Dr Mahathir said it was up to Anwar but being nominated did not mean that the person should contest. -- more

AH AAM

▼27/04/13-43MST

CNS0490

U PE 27-04 00156 ED834

aae

Mahathir - UMNO 2 Genting Highlands

He said it was the delegates' right to nominate and it was the nominee's right to decide whether he wished to contest or otherwise.

"I too last time received many nominations but few votes," he said.

On the many people offering to contest for the vice-president's post, Dr Mahathir said it was normal before an election but he believed they would withdraw at the last moment when they realised that they did not have much support.

Asked whether it was a healthy development when too many Menteris Besar offered to contest the vice-president's post, he said Umno practised the democratic system.

They had the right to contest, the right to decide whether such contests would bring victory or otherwise and also the right to consider the effects from such contests, he said. -- more

AH AAM

▼27/04/13-57MST

CNS0497

U PE 27-04 00181 ED835

aae

Mahathir - UMNO 3 Genting Highlands

Dr Mahathir was also asked to comment on the memorandum handed over to him yesterday by the Parti Semangat 46 Youth Movement, which among other things, called for a stop to criticism of the Malay Rulers.

He said the government had to explain to the people beforehand the criminal activities committed by the Rulers before drawing up legislation to limit their immunity.

"If the people do not know why the government is drawing up such legislation, they will think the government is coming up with such law for no reason at all," he said.

He said the Semangat 46 Youth said they did not support the crime committed by the Rulers but at the same time when the Constitution Amendment was tabled in the Dewan Rakyat, the party did not support it.

It followed therefore that if the party did not support the amendments, it meant it supported the criminal activities of the Rulers, Dr Mahathir said. -- more

AH AAM

▼27/04/14-08MST

CNS0509

U PE 27-04 00129 ED836

aae

Mahathir - UMNO 4 (last) Genting Highlands

The Prime Minister said Semangat 46 also did not support the Bill limiting the immunity of the Rulers because it was led by royal family members who were trying to defend only their own group.

The memorandum also asked that the validity of the Rulers' position should not be questioned, he said.

Dr Mahathir said the validity of the Sultan of Kelantan as the Ruler of that state would not be questioned if the Sultan of Kelantan himself did not question the validity of the law drawn up by Parliament.

"It is said, don't throw stones when you are in the glass house," he said.

-- Bernama

AH AAM

▼27/04/14-16MST