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Repeating, adding new fifth graf

UMNO-Mahathir (Constitution)

UMNO CONSTITUTION TO BE AMENDED TO GET RID OF MONEY POLITICS

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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov. 6 (Bernama) --- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the UMNO Constitution would be amended to eliminate the money politics culture involving some candidates who sought party posts.

Warning that the party would be destroyed if the unhealthy practice was allowed to prevail unchecked, he said a Special Assembly would be held for the purpose.

With the proposed amendments, any candidate proven to have bribed delegates would be barred from contesting any post, the Prime Minister, who is also UMNO president, said.

"The UMNO headquarters would require only three persons to make full reports supported by evidence that a candidate gave bribes and the candidate's name will be dropped," he said in his winding up speech at the UMNO General Assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

Speaking at a press conference later, he said the Special Assembly would be held this year.

Dr Mahathir's proposal that the UMNO Constitution be amended was prompted by the attention given by delegates to the issue of money politics in the debate at the three-day assembly which ended today. -- more

AH LDB

06/11/18-43MST

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UMNO-Mahathir (Constitution) 2 Kuala Lumpur

Delegates raised their hands when Dr Mahathir asked them to indicate that they agreed to the proposal, followed by loud applause.

Dr Mahathir said the amendments would not only cover candidates contesting posts at the national level but also in the divisions and branches throughout the country.

Party leaders who used government machinery to campaign would also be barred from contesting under the proposed amendments, he added.

"We do not want this (using government machinery and bribery) because it will destroy the party," he said amid thunderous applause.

Dr Mahathir said if money politics was allowed to spread unchecked, leaders of calibre who lacked the financial resources were sure to be defeated or ousted whenever party elections were held. -- more

AH LDB

06/11/18-37MST

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UMNO-Mahathir (Constitution) 3 Kuala Lumpur

He added that leaders elected through money politics had to constantly strive to get money to continue bribing members who supported them.

The result would be the emergence of leaders and a government that was corrupt because of abuse of power to fulfill the wishes of their supporters, he said.

In lighter vein, he added: "If party members can get money so easily, they might entertain the notion that they need not have to work hard because they only have to wait to get money once every three years."

They would be able to get a large sum of money because when one candidate gave RM10, another would give RM20 and the figure would keep rising even up to RM100,000, he said.

Therefore, UMNO must eradicate the unhealthy practice right now, beginning with leaders who should stop sending clocks, calculators and pens, he added.

"If there are UMNO leaders who already have a lot of money to spend on members, give it to the party and the money will be spent on all members. Then that's fair," he said. -- more

AH LDB

▼06/11/19-28MST

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UMNO-Mahathir (Constitution) 4 Kuala Lumpur

Throughout his speech on money politics, Dr Mahathir was frequently interrupted by long rounds of applause.

Referring to the new UMNO leadership line-up elected to various party posts, Dr Mahathir said the likelihood of money influencing delegates to vote for them was not apparent.

Except for two or three new faces, the majority of those elected were leaders with a long track record in the party and government, he added.

He said, however, the use of money to win various posts at the division level this time was highly evident.

"I am not so worried at the central level but I am worried about the division level," he added.

Dr Mahathir said it was useless for a person to win the post of UMNO division head if it resulted in a rift that caused the party to suffer defeat in the general election. -- more

AH LDB

▼06/11/19-42MST

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UMNO-Mahathir (Constitution) 5 (last) Kuala Lumpur

There was the danger that the defeated candidate would be estranged from the party together with his supporters, thus weakening the elected division head and those selected as Barisan Nasional candidates would be defeated, he added.

"Even if we lose one member, we might lose the election. We want UMNO divisions to be strong," he said.

As such, efforts to eradicate money politics should start at the division level, he added.

He concluded his speech by express gratitude to the overwhelming response by delegates to his proposal. -- Bernama

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