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Parliament-Mahathir

DAP MUST SHOW PROOF, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 23 (Bernama) -- The DAP has to back with proof its allegations that Umno leaders have interests in large companies which have won privatisation projects, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The party had to list the companies and show proof that Umno's senior leaders had interests in them, he said.

"It is not the proper way if one just listens to gossip and makes assumptions," he said when replying to a supplementary question from Encik Ahmad Nor (DAP-Bayan Baru) in the Dewan Rakyat.

Ahmad Nor had asked why large privatisation projects were given only to giant corporations such as United Engineers Malaysia (UEM) and Berjaya. He had also wanted to know how far it was true based on assumptions, according to him, that Umno leaders had interests in these companies.

Dr Mahathir said he was aware that his name had been linked to these companies, and that if the allegations were true he would now be a billionaire. -- more

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He also said that the DAP could check whether there was any truth in the assumption that Umno received much money from these companies and submit the evidence if it was so.

However, Umno also had the right to check on the sources of DAP's funds, he said.

Replying to the original question from Ahmad Nor, Dr Mahathir said the privatisation projects identified by the government would be implemented through open or restricted tender.

He said that the project to be privatised would be advertised in the newspapers under the open tender system while under the restricted tender system, the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) would invite interested companies to make their bids.

Dr Mahathir said the bids would be evaluated by a technical committee of the ministry concerned and the EPU financial committee, and the final decision would be made by the Cabinet.

Replying to Encik Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar (BN-Batang Lupar), he said privatisation had helped to cut down on 100,000 civil servants and this resulted in thousands of millions of ringgit saved in terms of public funds.

-- Bernama

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