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Mahathir-Sabah

PRIVATE FIRM TO AUDIT SABAH GOVT FINANCES AND SABAH FOUNDATION ACCOUNTS

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KUALA LUMPUR, April 5 (Bernama) -- The Federal Government will appoint a private company to audit the accounts of Sabah Foundation and the financial position of the state government when it was under Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) rule Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) would also be directed to carry out an investigation to determine if there was any abuse.

"We intend to investigate everything, to determine whether there was any abuse in Sabah Foundation and its subsidiaries," he told reporters after chairing the UMNO Supreme Council's monthly meeting at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

Dr Mahathir, who is UMNO President, said the Finance Ministry had been directed to engage the services of an audit company to carry out the work.

"The federal government is keen to ensure a clean, efficient, trustworthy and responsible government in Sabah," he added. -- more

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Mahathir-Sabah 2 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir, also the Barisan Nasional chairman, said the meeting, lasting more than three hours, had lengthy discussions on the situation in Sabah and what BN ought to do since taking over the reigns of government.

"The UMNO Supreme Council agreed with the aspiration of the Federal Government to create a Sabah state government that is clean, efficient, trustworthy and responsible," he added.

He said the BN government would strive its best to develop Sabah and one of the ways would be to encourage investors from the peninsula and Sarawak to invest there.

Dr Mahathir was asked about the removal of Datuk Dr Jeffrey Kitingan as Sabah Foundation Director and the latter's claim that Kuala Lumpur assured him he could remain in the post until he was given another post.

Dr Mahathir said he had never given such an assurance to Dr Jeffrey and neither did Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim or Sabah Chief Minister Tan Sri Sakaran Dandai. -- more

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He said also discussed was PAS improper use of certain issues during its campaigning in the Lundang state by-election in Kelantan last month.

PAS had made incorrect statements about what he spoke about "hudud" or Islamic criminal law.

"They said I wanted to make a new definition for hudud. It is not I who want to do it," he added.

Dr Mahathir was also asked whether the Supreme Council discussed Bank Negara's losses of RM9 billion in 1992 and RM5.7 billion last year in the foreign exchange market.

He said UMNO Deputy President Datuk Seri Anwar, who is also Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, gave an explanation but no decisions were made by the Supreme Council. -- Bernama