

Mahathir-candidates
LEADERS RESORTING TO MONEY POLITICS WILL NOT BE FIELDLED

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KUALA LUMPUR, June 19 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir

Mohamad said today the enforcement of the unanimously approved amendments to the Umno constitution to curb money politics will not be backdated.

However, the Prime Minister said that Umno members who resorted to money politics in the party election last year might lose their chances to be chosen as Barisan Nasional (BN) candidates in the next general election.

"The amendments will be taken into account (in deciding Umno candidates to be fielded under the BN ticket in the general election)," he told a press conference at the end of the special Umno general assembly here.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said that the date of enforcement could not be backdated to ensure fairness to the members.

But, he said, proof on the use of money in the Umno election last year would be taken into account to ensure that the party's candidates who were clean represented the BN in the general election. -- more

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Dr Mahathir said that the amendments to the party constitution would be enforced only after approval by the Registrar of Societies.

The amendments, he said, would be enforced by the existing Disciplinary Committee.

"If (members of) the Disciplinary Committee is involved, the Supreme Council can take action (against them)," he said.

He said that those who were not satisfied with the decision of the Disciplinary Committee could appeal to the Supreme Council. The Supreme Council's decision is final.

He said that the definition of money politics covered all kinds of rewards including cars, land and free trips abroad. -- more

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Dr Mahathir said that the specific definition of money politics would be determined by the party's Disciplinary Committee.

He said that the action taken against party members who resorted to money politics would be announced through the press.

"The Anti-Corruption Agency can also take action against any party members who resorted to money politics if the country's laws are involved," he said.

The Prime Minister said that several members of the BN component parties had already expressed interest to initiate similar amendments to their party's constitution to curb money politics.

However, he said, BN would not force its members to follow Umno and would allow them to decide at their own discretion. -- Bernama