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Mahathir-Party

DON'T BOTHER COURTS WITH POLITICAL DISPUTES- PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 29 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the practice of dragging political party problems to the courts should be stopped as this will not benefit anyone.

Dr Mahathir, who is Barisan Nasional Chairman, said such action would not only waste the court's time but would also result in bigger problems for the parties concerned.

"If the court is to be bothered with dispute between political parties there will be no end," he said at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah International Airport on his return from a 17-day overseas trip which took him to Zimbabwe, Portugal and the United Nations.

He said this when asked to comment on the move by the Member of Parliament for Batu Datuk Joseph Chong to seek a court injunction to restrain the Gerakan from disqualifying him from contesting the president's post.

"Today it may involve the party in general. Perhaps later it may involve the divisions and branches and individuals," he said.

The Prime Minister said in party politics there might be differences of opinion but these should be reconciled positively.

"Even if the court feels that a particular person should be the leader, party members may not think so and will not like him and he will not thus become the leader," Dr Mahathir said.

There should be compromise among candidates seeking high office but at times this might not be possible, he said.

"However going to court is not the way to resolve questions pertaining to disunity in the party for the courts will base their decisions according to the law and not according to the wishes of party members," the Prime Minister said.

Dr Mahathir nevertheless believed that the Gerakan's internal problems would not affect the BN's stability and was confident that Gerakan would be able to surmount them.

Asked what was his advice to the Gerakan leaders, Dr Mahathir said he wanted them to settle their problems internally. -- BERNAMA

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