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Mahathir-Umno

ERRANT UMNO MEMBERS ALSO JEOPARDISE THEIR POSITION OUTSIDE THE PARTY

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 2 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that Umno members proven to have practised money politics, abused their power and violated the ban on campaigning in the run-up to the party election next week will also jeopardise their position outside the party.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said that all reports received regarding the members involved would be used to determine whether they were fit to be leaders including whether they could be fielded as Barisan Nasional (BN) candidates in the next general election.

"If we have proof, we can take action not only within the party, we can even take action later on.

"If they are not eligible we will ensure that they do not qualify but we need to have clear proof, mere accusations are not enough," he told reporters after witnessing the signing of the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract for the RM13.6 billion Bakun hydro-electric project here.

It was signed between Bakun Hydro-Electric Corporation Bhd (BHC) and ABB-CBPO Consortium.

Dr Mahathir admitted that some of those involved might escape action by the party by the time the party election was held because of lack of proof or because of time constraints.

However, he said, if clear proof was obtained after the party election, action would still be taken against them.

"If there are no proof, he can proceed to contest...if there are proof of abuse or deceit, then we will take action before or after," he said.

Dr Mahathir was also asked to comment on the statement by Umno secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat that several supreme council members, deputy ministers and state exco members were being investigated relating to the matter.

"I have not got the full information. As far as I know there is no recommendation to expel anyone," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who is BN chairman, was also asked about his meeting with Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik yesterday.

The Prime Minister said that Dr Lim told him that certain parties were trying to interpret the interim injunction granted by the High Court here relating to the nomination of Batu Member of Parliament Datuk Joseph Chong to enable him to contest the post of Gerakan president on Saturday.

"As far as I'm concerned, it's up to Gerakan to decide. I'm not going to force anybody to do anything," he said.

Chong is alleged to have misled the party on the interim injunction granted by the court to enable him to contest.

Gerakan's election supervisory committee chairman Tan Sri Chan Choong Tak was reported to have said this after Gerakan's lawyer and Chong's lawyer met Justice Datuk Abdul Kadir Musa to seek clarification on the interim injunction.

-- BERNAMA

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