

10 OCT 1996
Mahathir-Gist
GIST OF UMNO PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Disciplinary Committee, Management Committee and the Special Committee on party election know who among the candidates are active, have been using my name and that of deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and even using money.

Their victory is no guarantee that action will not be taken against them later when we have sufficient evidence.

And those delegates moving around demanding this and that will also face disciplinary action even after the elections, he said when opening the Umno General Assembly today.

+Dr Mahathir said Umno had to take this unusual measure to ban campaigning for the party election to ensure the party's continued existence and strength as Umno was too important for the Malays and other Bumiputeras. Umno was not only a political party that provided opportunities to individuals to hold high positions in the country, to rule and develop the country.

Umno was a reform movement for the Malays and Bumiputeras and whether the Malays were able to restore their dignity or otherwise, depended on the cultural reformation that had and would be undertaken by Umno.

"If Umno fails to bring about these reforms, then our race, the Malays particularly, together with other Bumiputeras will be humiliated and have to submit to others again," he said.

+Dr Mahathir said the performance of the nation and that of Malays and Bumiputeras in economic and business management had not reached its peak. It has yet to reach levels that could guarantee its sustainability without supervision and guidance by Umno and the Umno-led government.

"A lot need to be done especially in the formation of a culture and qualities that could withstand onslaughts. Reforms that need to be initiated to mould a new Malay and Bumiputera must be carried out by Umno.

+Dr Mahathir said the understanding and upholding of Islam must be stressed on its noble values and not on its form so that the affluence by industrialisation and rural-urban migration would not bring about social problems.

He said problems of moral decay such as drug abuse, bohsia, child abuse and child abandonment mainly involved Muslims.

"There must be something that is not right with the moral education that is said to be based on religion," he said.

+Dr Mahathir said the culture of returning favours to supporters of politicians could destroy the race, religion and country.

Corrupt leaders would not stop at only returning the favour of those who helped them. Sooner or later they will want to enrich themselves by selling their power and influence.

There are those among Umno members who feel that power was of no use if it cannot be used to help friends or family but Dr Mahathir reminded members that if such practices were left unchecked, it would only perpetuate the culture of corruption.

+Dr Mahathir said Umno leaders must be made up of those committed to fighting for reformation of the Malays and other Bumiputeras who were willing to make sacrifices for the love of the nation, race and religion.

He said Umno leaders must be those of high calibre, free from corruption and self-interest as well as committed to the struggles of the

reformation.

He urged delegates to reject all candidates who have offered bribes in whatever form including those who campaigned despite the ban regardless of whether they were their friends before they destroyed the party. -- BERNAMA

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