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Mahathir-UMNO

INTEGRITY IS THE KEYWORD IN UMNO ELECTION

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 5 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the candidate's integrity rather than his or her affiliation to any group should be the yardstick in the election for Umno's top leadership.

The prime minister said in the election process, however, groupings sometimes emerged and such groupings could not be avoided because party members and Umno were not perfect.

"It should be the candidate's integrity, but sometimes groupings emerged, it's alright, we are not perfect, even Umno is not perfect," he told reporters today when asked for his views on the Umno election for Supreme Council posts this year and the offer by several leaders to stand as candidates for the posts of party vice presidents lately.

Earlier he had officially opened the Darul Kifayah Orphanage Complex costing RM2 million at Kampung Delima, here.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, said offering oneself to stand in the party election at the early stage could bring positive or negative effects.

"It can be positive if everyone is good and negative if everyone was bad," he said.

Questioned on the possibility that more people were interested to contest merely for the sake of holding position in the party, he said that to a certain extent there were people who were just interested in holding the post, however, there were also some who were genuinely interested to serve the party.

There were some who were keen to be leaders because they wanted to contribute, some wanted to be leaders because they wanted something out of it, he added.

"I am not the sole arbiter in this thing, it is up to the party to decide what they want, I don't dictate terms although there are a lot of accusations that I am a dictator," he said.

On the Umno Youth Exco meeting on Monday, he said it was up to the movement to decide on the issue of returning the leader's post to former Melaka Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik and the Supreme Council would study their views apart from the views of other quarters as well as the interpretation of the law. -- BERNAMA