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Mahathir-Umno

MAHATHIR WELCOMES CANCELLATIONS

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today welcomed the move by Umno ministers and deputy ministers to cancel functions which may be misinterpreted as campaigning for the party elections.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said unnecessary functions could be postponed until after the party elections.

"They are cancelling those (functions) which may be misinterpreted as campaigning, but other functions have to go on...they have to sign papers and things like that," he told reporters after taking a ride on the LRT from the Sultan Ismail station to the Ampang station here.

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on the move by Umno ministers and deputy ministers who have chosen to stay away from several functions yesterday after the Umno Supreme Council advised members holding government positions to refrain from attending functions which may be misconstrued as campaigning.

Asked to elaborate on the unnecessary functions, Dr Mahathir said there are functions like rallies, Settlers Day and Farmers Day of which their schedule had not been fixed.

Such functions would not interrupt the administration of the government as they were not essential activities but more towards boosting the morale of the people, he added.

Yesterday, several Umno ministers and deputy ministers avoided attending certain functions where they were to have been guests-of-honour, some sending to the functions non-Umno representatives.

Dr Mahathir also said that Umno was vetting the list of delegates to the Umno general assembly in October to make sure that none of the delegates were bankrupts.

The party barred bankrupts from attending the general assembly as delegates.

Dr Mahathir said Umno had to spend almost RM20,000 every time it has to look for such information from the Official Assignee's Office.

The checks had to be conducted by the party headquarters as Umno divisions did not have the financial capacity to do so. -- BERNAMA

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