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Mahathir-Expose

NAMES OF CANDIDATES WHO CAMPAIGN WILL BE EXPOSED, SAYS DR M

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 22 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today warned candidates in the Umno election this October that their names will be exposed at the general assembly if they breach the ban on campaign for the party polls.

The Prime Minister said clarifications and warnings had been repeatedly issued but some candidates were still campaigning by various means, including using money to fish for votes.

"If I get their names with sufficient evidence, I will expose all (at the Umno general assembly)," he told reporters at Angkasapuri here after recording his message for the 39th National Day.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, was asked to comment on calls by some candidates that the Supreme Council (MT) issue clear guidelines on the forms of campaign allowed.

The MT had earlier banned all forms of campaigning for the party election after it was found that some people elected as delegates to the general assembly were trying "to sell" their votes to the candidates.

Dr Mahathir said he would ask delegates at the assembly not to support those whose names were exposed.

"I will say it openly that they should not vote for people who campaign and use money. This was what I said at my division and it turned out that those who campaigned did not win (in the divisional contests)," said Dr Mahathir, who is Kubang Pasu Division chief.

Asked if such expose might be unfair to the candidates and would affect their chances, he said: "If they do it, we expose. The idea is to erode their chances."

Dr Mahathir said there was no need for the MT to issue any more guidelines because it had already banned all forms of campaigning.

"What more do they want when scores of guidelines have been issued? I think it is better for people who don't seem to understand to withdraw from the contests," he said.

He said allegations that the MT directive against campaigning was vague were mere excuses used by those bent on defying the ban.

"If they cannot understand such a thing, they are not fit to be leaders. Leaders can grasp things fast. We give clarification and they say it is vague, it is just an excuse," he said.

When told that some MT members had also called for clearer guidelines, Dr Mahathir said: "As MT members if they still don't understand after attending meetings, it is better not to be MT members."

He reiterated that the MT directive covers not only big-scale campaigning by candidates but also individual meetings with the delegates.

"They cannot campaign at all. Giving of cards and the like are also not allowed," he said. -- BERNAMA

AH YBY