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Mahathir-opposition

OPPOSITION USING COURTS AND PARLIAMENT FOR POLITICAL GAIN, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, March 24 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that opposition parties file suits in courts and table motions in Parliament more for political gain than to seek justice.

Describing it as a disease among opposition parties, the Prime Minister said they always seized on opportunities to gain political mileage whenever any issue cropped up in the country.

"That's why we hear they want a white paper on Perwaja, want a dialogue about this and that. The aim is just one thing...politics," he told reporters at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang, near here, after sending off Polish Prime Minister Dr Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz.

Yesterday, Attorney-General Datuk Mohtar Abdullah reminded courts to ensure they were not made use of by those appearing before them for ulterior motive or turned into a political arena by legal practitioners with political interests.

Asked to comment on the matter, Dr Mahathir said Umno had already acted by barring its members from going to the courts to resolve party problems.

"Otherwise, the courts will not be doing anything except hearing disputes between this person and that person apparently because their election was improper. This is a political matter and cannot be taken to court," he said.

He said while the government strove to develop the country, opposition parties always looked for issues that could be used to pursue their own political interest.

"And the courts are for them the tool to bring up unpleasant matters," he added.

For instance, he said, the decision taken by the Umno Supreme Council last year that there should be no contests for the party president's and deputy president's posts this October, was taken to court by a person who had no connection with Umno.

Apart from the courts, opposition politicians also always abused Parliament by attempting to table motions every time there were issues they think would benefit them, the Prime Minister said.

The government could not prevent them from tabling motions in Parliament, but they should do so in accordance with procedures, he said.

"Sometimes they come and make speeches and then leave (the Dewan Rakyat) without listening to what we say. This shows they use Parliament not to find solutions for the good of the country but merely for politics," he added. -- Bernama

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