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Mahathir-corruption

POLITICAL PARTIES THAT DEMAND MONEY ARE CORRUPT

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 16 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today political parties that demand money from the rakyat are considered to have committed corrupt practices and the government will monitor such activities in the coming general election.

The Prime Minister said the government intended to wipe out money politics in the general election but all political parties were found to be spending massive funds in the election.

"Some of them demanded money from the public but had never shown to the people where the money that they had collected had been channelled to and this is corruption. We will monitor such practice whether the money was collected on religious grounds or other purposes," he told the Dewan Rakyat in reply to a supplementary question from Haji Wan Mohammad Jamin Wan Mahmood (Pas-Tumpat).

When approached later, he said it was morally wrong to use religious sentiment to solicit for money although legally it was not wrong.

He said in the general election a lot of funds were needed for campaigning, printing of pamphlets and party manifesto, public gatherings and ceramah.

"We cannot stop them unless we say they cannot campaign just like in Umno but people will then say we are not democratic," he said.

"I am not suggesting that campaigning should be banned in the general election like in Umno. They can go ahead and campaign," he added.

He said there were many forms of corruption and the abuse of anything is considered wrongful and this included religious abuse.

"If there are reports, we will use the ACA (Anti-Corruption Agency)," the Prime Minister said.

Asked on Umno members reporting money politics to the ACA, he said: "It is up to the members to lodge the report to the ACA...it's up to the individual but no one can go to court."

He said as party members they could go to the ACA but they could not go to court as it was against party regulations. -- BERNAMA

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