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Mahathir-Umno

REJECT ERRANT CANDIDATES, URGES DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 8 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today urged delegates to the Umno General Assembly to soundly reject candidates who breached party ethics, practised money politics, involved in campaigns and abuse of power.

"Umno does not want leaders who are corrupt, insincere and dirty," he said at a presidential function in conjunction with this week's party's general assembly.

Candidates who were elected but were found later to have committed offences would be dropped, he said to loud applause from those present.

Only two parties would know who were untrustworthy -- God and the delegates, he said.

Dr Mahathir said he was prepared to be an unpopular leader in the interest of cleaning up the party, the government and the Malay race and creating a noble race and nation.

Dr Mahathir said many party members were aware of such corruption and he was saddened that they did not come forward to give information.

"This looks like a plot to encourage corruption in Umno," he said.

It appeared that in Umno there was a culture of giving and receiving whenever there was an election, he said.

When there is an election there were "candidates who run away, candidates who give when asked and those who give even without being asked."

If this were to continue what would happen to Umno particularly when leaders were those who gave and received bribes.

Dr Mahathir said if Umno had corrupt leaders and members they would surely sell the country and the Malay race and eventually not only Umno would be destroyed but also the country.

"Those who buy support should not be elected for if they go up through corruption, they will also fall because of corruption for they will be out to enrich themselves," he said.

He said not all candidates were dirty and neither were all of them clean.

Dr Mahathir wanted the delegates to use their power firmly, wisely and seriously to determine the type of leaders they wanted.

"Don't just say never mind and vote for friendship sake even if you know he has made mistakes."

"It is better not to elect than have leaders who are not sincere and dedicated," he added.

The Prime Minister also reminded members not to fall prey to words such as "everything will be taken care of" from some candidates who tried to make out that they would arrange something for them when they won but this would only lead to the destruction of the party and the race.

He said if those who received bribes voted for those who gave them then they were committing a serious crime against the race and nation.

Dr Mahathir regretted that just when the Umno struggle to uplift the status of the Malays and bring glory to the race had met with some success, there were those who used the little wealth and power they had gained to serve only their own interests. -- BERNAMA

SJA ZAB AAM