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Mahathir-Sanusi

SANUSI HAS DIFFERENT VIEWS ON PROJECTS DECIDED BY OSMAN, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 15 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid has cancelled and reviewed several projects in the state not because his predecessor, Tan Sri Osman Aroff, has made wrong decisions on the projects.

The Prime Minister said that Sanusi happened to have different views and approaches on the projects.

"He (Sanusi) does not actually cancel all the projects. He studied each one of them, which to be given priority and which not to," he told reporters after visiting the federal police headquarters in Bukit Aman here.

Dr Mahathir was commenting on the cancellation and review of several projects in Kedah by Sanusi since taking over from Osman.

The most recent was Kedah's decision not to host the Malaysian Games (Sukma) in 1998 because of Sanusi's preference to implement projects that would be of more benefit to the people.

Dr Mahathir said that Sanusi might have decided on Kedah's withdrawal as host because of financial constraints.

He said that Kedah had even planned to dispose of a piece of government land to build a stadium when the state bid to host Sukma.

However, he said, the federal government later offered to provide funds for the construction of the stadium.

"At the same time, we (the federal government) will also have to consider funds to be provided because large sums are involved," he said.

As such, Dr Mahathir said, Sanusi's actions showed that he had different views and approaches and not because Osman had made wrong decisions on the projects.

Commenting on the expulsion of Sabah Gerakan chairman Datuk Kong Hong Ming from the party, Dr Mahathir said that the Gerakan's firm action showed that it was in full support of the Barisan Nasional (BN) concept.

Dr Mahathir, who is the BN chairman, said that the BN would not allow an exemption to members after a decision had been made on certain matters.

"When a decision has been made by the BN, all parties must abide by the decision. There is no exception, or else the BN will be destroyed," he said.

Yesterday, Kong was expelled by the Gerakan for abstaining from voting for the amendments to the Sabah Forestry Enactment 1968 in the Sabah State Assembly in June.

Asked to comment on campaigning still going on for the Umno elections in October, Dr Mahathir said that the Supreme Council could only act if there were clear proof.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said that the names of candidates violating the ban on campaigning would be withdrawn from the list of eligible candidates.

"Such people are certainly not fit to lead Umno because of their lack of moral consciousness. If we were to allow them, it will destroy Umno," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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