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Mahathir-Complaints

UMNO CHECKS COMPLAINTS WITH THREE DIFFERENT SOURCES, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 8 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said an Umno special committee chaired by him checks with three different sources in determining the authenticity of complaints against candidates contesting the party election on Thursday.

The method is adopted from the tactics employed to detect the activities of terrorists during the Emergency period which had proven to be effective, the Prime Minister said.

"If all the three different sources give the same answer to a complaint made, we consider the complaint to be true," he told reporters at a Umno presidential function in conjunction with the party general assembly which begins on Thursday.

Dr Mahathir, who is the Umno president, however, declined to reveal the sources.

Asked if the future of candidates disqualified from contesting the election for alleged breach of the no-campaign rule and indulgence in money politics were affected, he said they were not prohibited from taking part in future party elections.

It is just hoped that they would change their attitude and not put their own interests above that of the party and the race, he added.

Dr Mahathir said even after the general assembly, action would be taken against errant candidates if there was sufficient evidence. Their posts will be vacated if they had won.

The party president said whatever decision that was taken, not all would agree with it.

"Therefore, I urge the delegates to reject the errant candidates because they (delegates) know who had offered money whereas we don't," he said.

Asked if the committee had received fresh complaints, Dr Mahathir said it had received new information but had yet to determine its authenticity.

As it was very near the election day, the committee has given him and his deputy, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, the mandate to make decisions without the need to hold committee meetings. -- BERNAMA

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