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Mahathir-Umno

UMNO MT TO DISCUSS ALLEGATIONS AGAINST VEEP CANDIDATES

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 3 (Bernama) -- The Umno Supreme Council (MT) will discuss allegations that some vice-presidential candidates in the party's election this October were involved in money politics although they have been cleared by the Management and Disciplinary Committee.

If necessary those implicated would be asked to leave the meeting when this subject was raised, Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad told reporters after opening the general assembly of the People's Progressive Party Malaysia (Baru) (PPP) here today.

Dr Mahathir, who is the Prime Minister, said this when asked on allegations that the implicated candidates had been cleared because they sit in the committee.

Asked whether these candidates had not yet been truly cleared of the allegations, he said: "As it is we consider them clean. We consider a person clean until proven otherwise."

To another question, Dr Mahathir said there was no need to set up a separate committee to investigate allegations of misconduct against candidates.

On Aug 27, Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said none of the vice-presidential candidates had been issued show-cause letters in connection with the ban on campaigning for the party election although some problems were raised against them.

Dr Mahathir said: "The people who can decide are the delegates and if the delegates feel that a person is guilty they should not vote for him."

"We will make an effort through the MT which meets this Friday because this task must be handed to a group and the best group (for this) is the MT," he said.

Asked about reports that non-members of Umno had been listed among delegates to the general assembly this October, Dr Mahathir said it was unlikely that non-members could be elected to the Umno leadership but if there were they would be removed.

Asked on the contributions that PPP could make to the Barisan Nasional (BN), he said any component party which received the people's support would be given due consideration.

Dr Mahathir said PPP lacked strength at one time but was now getting strong support and was full of spirits.

Asked on the possibility of PPP representatives being given posts in the government, Dr Mahathir said this would be considered according to the situation because "many want posts in the government but the important thing is support for the BN".

Commenting on PPP's success in overcoming its problems, he said the habit of resorting to the courts should be discarded before political parties depended on the support of the people, and not court decisions.

Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik, when asked on Dr Mahathir's speech at the opening, said he agreed with the view that BN's way of seeking consensus to solve internal party problems had been the thrust of its success.

-- BERNAMA

ZAB NHD YBY