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Mahathir-Sarawak

MAHATHIR ON WHEN UMNO WILL SPREAD WINGS TO SARAWAK

KOTA KINABALU, Feb 18 (Bernama) -- Umno will only spread its wings to Sarawak if there is a need to do so and if its entry benefits the majority of Bumiputeras in the state, Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said that at the present time there were no plans by the party to establish itself in Sarawak.

"When I mention Umno will only spread its wings to Sarawak if there is a need, I mean the majority of people there, especially Bumiputera, should benefit and not a few people who harbour expectations and spread rumours," he said.

He said this at a news conference at the Kota Kinabalu old airport terminal before he returned to Kuala Lumpur after ending a two-day visit to Sabah.

On the decision of the Kuching High Court last Thursday to nullify the results of the Bukit Begunan state constituency election in Sarawak because of vote-buying, Dr Mahathir said the case should serve as a warning to everyone to avoid money politics.

"If it is true there was use of money, we surely will agree with the court decision. We will appeal (against the verdict) if we think there wasn't (any use of money)," he said.

The Bukit Begunan seat was won in the September state election last year by Mong anak Dagang of Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak, a state Barisan Nasional component party, by a majority of 2,165 votes.

He defeated independent candidate Donald Lawan who later challenged the results in the court which ruled the election null and void. -- BERNAMA

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