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Mahathir-Graft

MAHATHIR REITERATES PLEA TO ROOT OUT GRAFT

SANDAKAN, Aug 16 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight reiterated his call to leaders of the country to wipe out corruption whole-heartedly as it could bring about serious consequences if it becomes a norm at all levels of administration.

The Prime Minister said any country which practised corruption would eventually collapse.

"That is why we must weed out corrupt practices at all costs and must be bold enough to take action even against our own friends," he said when speaking at a dinner hosted by the Sandakan Barisan Nasional (BN) here.

He said it was better to check corruption now before it had become rampant because it would then be difficult to stamp out the menace as everyone would be involved in it.

Dr Mahathir, who is on a two-day working visit to Sabah beginning today, specifically asked leaders in Sabah to curb corruption in the state.

He said though corruption in Sabah had yet to be eliminated totally, it had been considerably reduced since the BN came to power in the state.

He said corruption occurred in various forms including deliberately delaying work in offices prompting some people to give bribe to speed up work.

Dr Mahathir said a person who used his power for self-interests is also committing corruption and such abuses must be acted upon immediately and should not be allowed to prolong until it crept into others in the department.

He said a country saddled with corruption would not be respected by others and nobody would want to have dealings with it.

He also said the people of this country should learn to accept the reality that work satisfaction should not be measured by dollars and cents alone but also by achievements.

Present were Chief Minister Datuk Yong Teck Lee, Land and Cooperative Development Datuk Osu Sukam, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Chong Kah Kiat, state cabinet ministers and Sabah BN leaders. --

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