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Mahathir-DAP

DAP HAS SHOWN ITS TRUE COLOURS, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUANTAN, June 13 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the DAP has shown its true colours by prohibiting its members from making statements to the press.

He said that previously the party was quick to accuse the government of nepotism when it was practising nepotism itself.

"It is easy to make accusations...to accuse the government of not allowing press freedom, what is this. (It) is not the government yet, if (it) becomes the government tomorrow..." he told a media conference after opening the Pahang Cement Sdn Bhd factory in Bukit Sagu, near here.

The DAP was reported to have issued a directive yesterday prohibiting all its members from making press statements on the recent suspension of two party stalwarts and removal of another from their posts.

Dr Mahathir said the party had practised nepotism from the start by choosing the son of the secretary-general to be the number two man in the party and when the son encountered problems the party was used to defend him.

(DAP deputy secretary Lim Guan Eng, the son of party secretary-general Lim Kit Siang, was sentenced to 18 months' jail each by the Court of Appeal for sedition and false publication, the sentences to run concurrently. The party recently held gatherings in several states to garner support and sympathy for Guan Eng.)

Dr Mahathir said the party had condemned the government for the Internal Security Act and arrests without trial but this time its member had been tried in court.

"The judge has decided, we must respect that decision...he has been tried in court, I was not the judge," he said.

The prime minister said everyone must respect the independence of the judiciary and not question its judgment.

-- BERNAMA

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