

23/06/1998

Dr M: Government willing to make more disclosures

THE Government will make further disclosures of its decisions, including the award of privatization contracts, if that is what the people want, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

"Yes, if that is the wish of the people, we will do it (disclose the decisions taken)," he told a press conference in Shah Alam after announcing the Edaran Otomobil Nasional Bhd's 1,000,000th Proton car customer.

The Prime Minister was asked by reporters whether the recent spate of disclosures, such as companies awarded privatization contracts and individuals given special share allocations, would now be the norm, such as when new awards are made.

At the same time, Dr Mahathir said, the people, too, would have to "disclose all". The same applies to the media and currency traders, he added.

The Prime Minister, who is also Umno president, had during the party's 52th general assembly released a list of names of those awarded privatized projects.

The list of 171 companies includes the names of major shareholders and those connected to Umno and government leaders. He also made available another set containing 114 companies which had been offered privatized projects in principle.

A day later, Dr Mahathir released more lists containing names of those awarded shares.

The lists were compiled by the Economic Planning Unit in the Prime Minister's Department, state governments, International and Trade Industry Ministry, Finance Ministry and Entrepreneur Development Ministry.

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