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Mahathir-economy

LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS ON ECONOMIC DOWNTURN EXPECTED AT UMNO AGM

KUALA LUMPUR, June 8 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight the economic downturn is expected to be discussed at length at the coming Umno General Assembly as some of the delegates are affected by the slowdown.

The Prime Minister and Umno president said in fact he would be doing injustice to the party and the nation if he himself did not in his presidential address talk about the economic problems.

"I'm quite sure they (the delegates) are going to talk about the economic problems because some of them are affected by the economic downturn... yes, I'm indicating to you that I will talk about economic problems among other things," he told a press conference after chairing the Umno Supreme Council meeting here.

When asked to comment on the opposition's call for a roundtable talk with the government on the current economic problems, he said, "We don't want to politicise this."

Saying that he could not understand what the opposition really wanted from such talks, he added, "In fact the opposition has said that they will win more seats with this (current economic downturn affecting the nation)."

Dr Mahathir said that to the opposition the economic downturn was a political issue, not an economic one, and that it could benefit from it.

"It's up to the people to assess whether it is proper to make use of the country's misfortune..., " he said.

When asked whether issues such as corruption and nepotism would also be discussed at the June 19-21 general assembly, the party president said if the delegates wanted to discuss those issues, they could not be stopped from doing so.

-- BERNAMA  
MNY ARA MAM