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PM throws a challenge to `reformasi' supporters

KOTA KINABALU, Fri. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today threw a challenge to supporters of the reformasi movement to stand for election if they want to change the leadership.

Speaking at a gathering of State BN Youth, Dr Mahathir said:

"This is a democratic country. If we want to change the leadership, we do so through elections. If they think they command the support of the people, then they should stand for election."

However, he said those who held demonstrations in support of the reformasi movement did not dare to stand for election.

"All we (BN members) need is a healthy mind. We don't need to wear a headband, go to the streets and shout, burn motorcycles and throw Molotov cocktails.

"By using our heads, we can ensure who becomes our leader," he said at a gathering of State BN Youth.

Dr Mahathir said the West was now criticising Malaysia because the "puppet" that it was grooming to take over the leadership was unable to do so.

He said the West was not in a position to question Malaysia's judicial system because its own system was corrupt.

"A person who accepted money for his election campaign was not tried because his friends who decide on whether or not he should be prosecuted, decided that he should be let off the hook," he said.

He said this clearly showed that corruption was still alive and kicking in the West.

"And these are the people who come to Malaysia to tell us what to do.

"They should look at themselves in the mirror before criticising others," he said.

(END)