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Mahathir-policies

UMNO NEEDS TO STAY WITH ITS WINNING POLICIES

By: Azman Ujang

TOKYO, Oct 16 (Bernama) -- Umno has developed winning policies and it is important that the party stays with these policies no matter who leads the organisation, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister, responding to a question whether his successor would continue with his policies, said these were not his personal policies but national ones.

Dr Mahathir said the Umno polls next year would determine who would be his deputy as well as his successor.

"But more important than choosing me is for Umno to stay with the policies that we have developed because these are winning policies," he said during a question and answer session at a luncheon talk attended by Japanese corporate leaders, bankers and academicians here.

"My successor of course will not be like me 100 per cent. I'm not 100 per cent like my predecessor. The style may be different but although I may have put some ideas into our policies, they are not my personal policies, they are national policies," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said due to slower economic performance, Malaysia would no longer be able to achieve the previous level of 8 per cent growth and due to this, the Barisan Nasional might not be able to achieve the same big majority in the next election.

Speaking about ex-Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, the prime minister said it was unfortunate that he was forced to remove his deputy, adding that he was left with no choice but to do what he did.

This was particularly so when he had to do it at a time when Malaysia was having economic recession and taking into account political problems arising from his decision.

" Until about two months ago, Anwar was my chosen successor as prime minister. I would rather that this did not happen," he said.

Anwar, sacked as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister on Sept 2 and expelled a day later from Umno, of which he was deputy president, is facing 10 charges of sodomy and corruption and will go on trial from Nov 2.

-- Bernama

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