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Dr Mahathir: Opposition front can go to court over discrepancies in voters' list

JITRA, Sun. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said today the opposition front "is welcome to take to court" the matter of discrepancies in the Election Commission's voters' list.

"I am not aware (of this), if they (opposition) have evidence they are welcome to take it to the courts after the election and prove that there is such false registration.

"But we can also prove that in many areas in Kelantan, there are people who are registered under one address and this is done by Pas. I know that for a fact," he said in reply to questions at a Press conference at the end of his tour of his Kubang Pasu constituency here today.

He was asked by a reporter of the London-based Daily Telegraph on allegations that there were discrepancies in the list, especially in Kubang Pasu.

Asked if he was concerned about this matter (in Kelantan), Dr Mahathir said:

"I am...but we do not depend on such things to win. We have no fear about this election.

"We can win; it is the opposition which tends to play dirty tricks. They have shifted some of my voters to other constituencies because they thought they cannot win here. So they take the voters to constituencies where they think they can win."

Asked if he had the evidence, Dr Mahathir said he had the evidence but was not bound to supply it to journalists.

"I will lodge a complaint when we feel it is necessary. I am not answerable to the foreign press."

He was also asked whether the Anwar (former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim) issue had affected his personal popularity.

He said it had not because if it had he would "obviously will be on tenterhooks by wanting to know whether I can win my election or not. Well, we will see tomorrow whether I can win or not."

Dr Mahathir said the foreign Press had this in mind.

"You are going to say that this election is not fair to the opposition and that is why the government party has won...you wouldn't accept the result as shown by the electorate."

On whether it was appropriate for the Prime Minister to comment on Anwar's marriage, Dr Mahathir said he was forced to answer the question because members of the Press had asked him.

"Well, we have a problem with the Press. The Press keeps on asking this question, they ask me whether it is true the wife (Anwar's) had asked for a divorce.

"So, what do I say? I know that she did, so I merely answered in the affirmative based on what I know to be a fact. I am not adding anything, it is the Press which keeps on adding all these things to the campaign...you ask me questions and I will answer."

(END)