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Najib-Lies

ALL-OUT DRIVE TO CORRECT NEGATIVE PERCEPTION ON UMNO, GOVT

PEKAN, Nov 6 (Bernama) -- Umno launched the anti-defamation operation to correct the negative perception among the people on the party and government as a result of malicious lies told by the Opposition to gain political mileage.

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said Umno would counter the lies more aggressively and set the record straight based on the guidelines issued by Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Dr Mahathir launched the operation in Kuala Lumpur yesterday pursuant to the Umno supreme council's decision last month to mount an all-out campaign to address the lies and allegations against Umno.

"The Opposition has told many lies and distorted the facts so much so many people tend to believe them and think that it is the government that is at fault," he told reporters here today.

Earlier, Najib, who is Education Minister, attended the launching of the centennial celebrations of Sekolah Kebangsaan Seri Biram here by the Sultan of Pahang Sultan Ahmad Shah.

Najib said although information campaigns to explain the truth had been going on, it would be intensified after yesterday's launch.

He said the disclosure by former Bank Negara assistant governor Datuk Abdul Murad Khalid on the alleged amazement of RM3 billion by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim while he was in government should serve as an eye-opener to the people.

He said such disclosures would make the people realise on the importance to continue their support for the present government and its policies.

Murad, in a statutory declaration made public last Thursday, alleged that Anwar amassed a fortune of more than RM3 billion while he was the deputy prime minister to further his political ambition.

He was said to have controlled at least 20 master accounts maintained by his cronies.

Najib also welcomed the supreme council's decision on Thursday that Umno members wishing to reveal more of Anwar's wrongdoings to first refer the matter to Dr Mahathir before making them public.

"That's why we do not want any revelations to be made before determining whether the disclosures have strong evidence. We don't want the other party to deny and take legal action," he said.

Many disclosures could be made on the use of money and abuse of power but they must be backed by documentary evidence to avoid being disputed in future, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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