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Mahathir-Crony

I'LL NAME ANWAR'S CRONY WHEN TIME COMES - DR M

KUALA LUMPUR, May 3 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight he will reveal the identity of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's crony who allegedly amassed RM230 million in wealth "when the time comes".

The government was currently studying whether action could be taken against the person, the prime minister told reporters after chairing the Umno Supreme Council meeting.

"I told the Supreme Council (about the crony) but did not mention his name. I have a statement (of asset declaration) made to me as the prime minister," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, was asked if the government would act against the person if he had amassed the money through abuse of power.

He said: "In this case, it's not easy to link the way they do anything to any crime etc."

Yesterday, Dr Mahathir said the person, who remained an Umno member, was very close to Anwar, the former deputy prime minister and deputy Umno president.

Asked if there were other cases of wealth amassing by Anwar's cronies, Dr Mahathir said the government knew the people involved.

"We know who was given many directorships and chairmanships in companies although they did not have anything before.

"We know that they got positions in companies because they were close with Datuk Seri Anwar.

"When they are given positions in companies everything becomes easy...the companies have lesser problems. Many companies are forced to choose Datuk Seri Anwar's cronies as members, chairmen and so on.

Dr Mahathir also did not rule out the possibility that the money amassed by the cronies was used to finance the staging of street demonstrations in the federal capital.

--BERNAMA

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