

02/11/1999

No directive for party members to expose alleged misdeeds

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said Umno members who had volunteered to disclose information about Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's alleged misdeeds were not directed by Umno to do so.

The Prime Minister said they must have mustered the courage to speak up when they saw how former Bank Negara assistant governor Datuk Abdul Murad Khalid had done so in a statutory declaration.

"If it's an Umno directive, we would have done so long ago," he said when asked if Umno had directed its members to speak up.

Last week, Murad had exposed alleged wrongdoings by Anwar and claimed that the latter had amassed a fortune of RM3 billion to be used for his political ends.

Yesterday, Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said several Umno leaders and members would soon come forward with further disclosures to protect Umno's credibility and unity of the Malays.

Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman had also said the state government was only waiting to expose what Anwar allegedly did in the state which many did not know about.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, was speaking to reporters after visiting Mimos Bhd on the occasion of its third anniversary as a corporate body.

Referring to the contest for the Umno deputy presidency when Anwar had challenged Tun Ghafar Baba, Dr Mahathir said he had been puzzled why the latter had no nominations from Sabah where he had always been popular.

"Suddenly, none of the Umno divisions in Sabah nominated him. That has always been a mystery to me. Many say it's bribery but the bribe-takers would not tell anyone.

"Just like people who have been sodomised, they don't go around telling everyone," he said.

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