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Mahathir-Judiciary

NO INTERFERENCE WITH JUDICIARY, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

BANDAR JENGKA, Sept 7 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said the government has never interfered with the judicial process.

He expressed surprise that when legal actions were taken against certain people for business irregularities, allegations arose that the government targetted people who were close to Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"But, Datuk Seri Anwar said he has no crony. That was what he claimed...how come these people are then considered to be close to him and that we chose them on purpose," he said after a meet-the-people session at the Nadi Kota Mini Stadium here.

Dr Mahathir said it was possible that these people had breached the law previously but no action was taken against them due to the existence of certain influences.

He said the government did not single out anyone to face legal action, instead the action is pursued based on legal facts.

"We do not practice favouritism, even our friends will be brought to court if they commit any offence, including Datuk Seri Anwar himself, a friend of mine," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the accusation that the government picked on purpose to prosecute people who are close to Anwar was a form of admission that Anwar did have cronies whom he always helped.

Dr Mahathir said he himself has no right to frustrate legal action against Anwar although his former deputy had asked him to stop the police investigation.

"I do not interfere with police work or with investigations on corruption. Why documents...investigation papers maybe, were taken. If he did not take them, say so. What did he take, we would like to know," he added.

-- BERNAMA
AFY ROS THG