

25/11/1999

No law to stop parties being funded by foreigners

KUCHING, Wed. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Government would only expose the Opposition as puppets if it received financial aid and support from foreigners.

He said there was no law at present to prevent political parties from receiving foreign assistance.

"But if they break the law, we will take action," he told reporters after ending his visit here, accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

Dr Mahathir said if it was true that such a thing occurred, then it showed foreign interference in the internal affairs of Malaysia.

He was asked to comment on a call by Umno Youth today urging the Government to investigate attempts allegedly made by high commissions and embassies in the country to provide financial assistance and support to opposition politicians and non-governmental organisations in the general election.

In Kota Baru, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said officers at foreign high commissions and embassies who helped the Opposition had no right to serve in the country.

He said any attempt by the foreign missions to assist the opposition parties was "an interference in the country's affairs".

"Wisma Putra has to be informed of this interference," Abdullah, who is also Home Minister told reporters after addressing a gathering at Sekolah Kebangsaan Kedai Buloh in Banggol.

He said his Ministry would prepare a report on the matter.

In Pekan, Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the Government strongly objected to any attempt by foreign parties to meddle in the political affairs of the country.

He said those with information on the matter should channel it to the authorities so that an investigation could be initiated.

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