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Mahathir-DAP

PM DISAPPOINTED THAT OPPOSITION SLANDERS GOVT AT INTERNATIONAL FORUMS

BUKIT MERTAJAM, Nov 27 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is disappointed with the opposition parties which slandered the government at international forums by claiming that there is no freedom in the country.

He said the allegations of the opposition parties, especially DAP, that the government was unfair and did not give them freedom were lies because if they were true, it would have been impossible for the DAP to be active in the country.

He said although the DAP freely spread its slander and lies, the government did not take action against it and this was proof that there was freedom in the country.

"We see that the DAP is so free to spread slander and lies and we don't take action against them. Yet they accuse the government of not being fair to opposition parties at international forums," he told reporters after hearing a confession from former DAP deputy secretary-general Abdul Muluk Daud that the party had received financial contributions from foreign parties for its activities.

At the brief meeting between Abdul Muluk and several former DAP members and the prime minister, Muluk revealed that the DAP had arranged a 10-member delegation to Sweden to call on the Swedish Social Democratic Party (SAP), the ruling party there, between May 19 and 30, 1996, and that the visit was not at the invitation of that party.

Abdul Muluk said that during the visit, the delegation met leaders of that country and the Human Rights Organisation in Stockholm to dispute the judicial and human rights system in Malaysia.

Dr Mahathir said he was saddened by the the action of the DAP which should not have washed dirty linen in public.

"I'm sad because even if we have bad points, we should not reveal them to others. We can resolve everything in the country," he said.

He also said that the action clearly showed that the opposition could not give constructive ideas and only knew how to oppose the government.

He criticised the opposition which he said had never suggested alternatives to resolve a problem and described the budget proposed by the opposition as just a scrap of paper.

He said their budget did not have a strong foundation because it did not state clearly the calculation of income and expenditure and was solely for the purpose of the election.

Abdul Muluk revealed a letter dated Nov 10, 1995, and signed by SAP Deputy International Secretary Roger Hallhag on the payment for the delegation's air tickets to Sweden and another letter dated May 15, 1996, which stated that the visit was at the request of the DAP.

In a short speech in front of the prime minister, he said the party had received financial aid for its activities but not for the election.

After that, another former DAP leader, Ahmad Aki, who had resigned as the Perak DAP Urban and Rural Committee chairman, said he no longer supported the party because it could no longer be trusted to lead the opposition.

He said he had supported the DAP for 28 years but the party had deviated from its struggle when it collaborated with other opposition parties.

As such, he left the party on Nov 19 and decided to tear his life membership card in front of the prime minister.

-- BERNAMA
ZU JK