

10 JUN 1999

Mahathir-Truth

PM ON PEOPLE SUING HIM FOR TELLING THE TRUTH

KUALA LUMPUR, June 10 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he had to speak on certain matters behind closed doors to avoid being sued although what he said was the truth.

He said some people were likely to sue him as a way of shutting him up so that he could not tell the truth.

"So, in a closed place, I can talk freely without the press," he said at the start of a news conference after launching an Umno Youth pre-poll special camp, here.

Dr Mahathir was giving his reasons for asking the media to leave the Merdeka Hall of the Putra World trade Centre before addressing some 1,900 Umno Youth members.

The media members were earlier allowed to listen to Acting Umno Youth Chief Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein's speech.

Present were vice-president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob.

Dr Mahathir said that once the media published what he said, certain people were likely to sue him even if what he said was the truth.

"They are a nuisance," he said.

He also said that another reason for keeping the media out was that some Umno Youth delegates had expressed their unhappiness with certain members of the media.

"I don't know who ... not all, but certain people in the media," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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