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Mahathir-Murad

UMNO MEMBERS NOT ORDERED TO DISCLOSE ABOUT ANWAR, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 1 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said party members are volunteering information on alleged improprieties by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim during his tenure as deputy prime minister and finance minister not at the behest of the party.

"We would have directed them long ago if we want them to come up with information. But many see this (Datuk Abdul) Murad (Khalid) as being a bold person. They too become bold," he said.

Dr Mahathir was approached by reporters about Umno leaders and members expressing willingness to expose more to what Murad had disclosed last week in his statutory declaration about Anwar's alleged slush fund.

Last Thursday, Murad, a former Bank Negara assistant governor made a public allegation that more than 20 "master accounts" worth RM3 billion were maintained by certain people for Anwar to draw upon for his own political purposes.

The prime minister earlier visited the Mimos Berhad complex at Technology Park Malaysia in Bukit Jalil here in conjunction with the third anniversary Mimos' corporatisation.

Mimos was previously the Malaysian Institute of Microelectronic Systems.

Yesterday Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said a number of Umno leaders and members would similarly volunteer disclosures like Murad's in order to protect Umno's credibility and safeguard the Malays from disunity.

Citing the past contest for the Umno deputy presidency which saw Anwar challenging incumbent Tun Ghafar Baba, the prime minister said that at that time Ghafar was quite popular in Sabah.

"Suddenly none of the Umno divisions in Sabah nominated Ghafar. This has always been a mystery to me. Many attributed this to bribery but the bribe-takers will not tell others about this."

Asked whether other Menteri Besar are willing to come forward with 'expose' about Anwar, the prime minister said: "May be, I don't know for certain."

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

-- BERNAMA

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