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Mahathir-right

IT'S GOVT'S RIGHT TO TERMINATE PANEL MEMBER, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, March 1 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today it is the right of the government to terminate anyone appointed on its panel of doctors or lawyers.

"That's the government's right and it's not the right of the panel member. The panel member is appointed. If the government wants, it can terminate his service," he told reporters after chairing the Umno Supreme Council (MT) meeting here.

He was asked to comment on the move by the Melaka government to send circulars to all its departments and agencies to terminate the contracts of their panel doctors and lawyers who are aligned with the Opposition.

"We see the government in the east coast for example terminating the services of many people but not many commented on it. Penghulus were sacked...everyone was sacked. We are not like that," he said.

Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohd Ali Rustam was reported to have said today that the circulars had to be issued to be fair to private practitioners and lawyers who had been supporting the government.

Dr Mahathir was also asked whether the government would review television programmes aired by ASTRO, the country's digital radio and satellite TV service provider, which certain quarters feared would have negative influence on the people.

"We haven't review the programme but we are listening to the people's views through the media," he said.

He said that if the people were strongly against it then the government would consider whether it would do something about it.

ASTRO has 28 channels including four Chinese channels namely Astro AEC, TVBS Asia, Phoenix and Astro Wah Lai Toi and one Tamil channel Astro Vanaavil, with 100 per cent of the programmes imported from Taiwan, Hong Kong and India.

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