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Mahathir-Code

SUPREME COUNCIL OKAYS CODE OF ETHICS FOR PARTY POLLS

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 3 (Bernama) -- The Umno supreme council today approved the code of ethics for the party elections in May.

Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the code, among others, barred candidates vying for party positions from using money to buy votes and give donations to secure nominations.

He said they can campaign to woo support but they have to abide by the conditions stipulated in the code.

Aspirants breaching the code would be prevented from contesting, he told reporters after the meeting.

Dr Mahathir said divisions and branches have been prohibited from organising functions or meetings between candidates and delegates.

Division and branches also cannot ask money to sponsor programmes initiated for the candidates' interests.

"Nobody can abuse the powers to secure votes.

" If a candidate is a chairman of an economic corporation, he cannot exercise his powers to use buses owned by the corporation to bring delegates for divisional meetings," he said.

Contestants are also not allowed to give gifts to others to help campaign for votes, he said.

Asked whether the code would limit members' freedom, Dr Mahathir said it would not.

He said the code was aimed at disciplining party members.

"We in Umno want members to be conscious on the need to have self-discipline," he said.

Dr Mahathir said members breaching the code must be prepared to face action.

He believed members and candidates would not abuse their powers or be involved in activities contrary to party regulations.

He said they must abide by the rules to preserve Umno's image.

Asked why the ban on campaigning was withdrawn, he said, the decision was made following requests from division secretaries not to impose strict conditions as some candidates might want to introduce themselves to delegates.

He said the supreme council advised members on the do's and don'ts in the interests of Umno.

-- BERNAMA

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