

Umno serious about curbing money politics, says Mahathir

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri: Umno is serious about curbing money politics in the party to prevent the people from losing faith in the party, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"We cannot play around on this issue anymore. We have to be serious and if we are not, the people will not believe in Umno anymore."

He said stern action needs to be taken and the party will expel anyone found guilty of the offence, including supreme council members.

"Anyone who is guilty ... supreme council members, the prime minister ... will be expelled if there's proof ... I'm willing to be expelled ... if I'm found to be involved in money politics, expel me."

"We cannot fool around, otherwise no one will believe the party. If we want to eradicate corruption and money politics, we must act."

He was speaking to reporters after attending a

ceremony to commemorate Umno's struggle and also a meeting with Umno veterans at Putra World Trade Centre.

Asked whether the conditions for eligibility to contest were the reason the problem persisted, Mahathir said although various conditions had previously been set and amended for the good of the party, greed was the reason money politics still exist.

"The thing is, if we are very greedy, this is the problem we will have," he said.

"If we feel responsible that we struggle within the party for the interest of the party and we want to guard party interest against self-interest, we would not do anything for self-interest which could damage the party."

Earlier, in his speech at the ceremony, Mahathir asked Umno members to support the action taken against those involved in money politics if they love the party and want it to be clean of such menace.