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Mahathir-Umno

LOSERS TOO FACE ACTION IF FOUND USING MONEY POLITICS - MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, April 16 (Bernama) -- Even Umno members who were unsuccessful in their bid for party posts face stern action if found to have indulged in money politics, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Umno president said the party would report to the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) about cases of money politics involving not just the winners but the losers as well.

"Action will also be taken against those who lost if found to have resorted to money politics," he told reporters after chairing a meeting of the Umno Supreme Council.

Dr Mahathir said the victory achieved by candidates proven to have indulged in money politics would not be recognised.

"Those involved in money politics betray the struggles of the party. If it is proven that the candidate elected employed methods that are not allowed, including money politics, his election will not be recognised," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Umno management had received many complaints about money politics and they would be looked into by the Umno Disciplinary Board chaired by Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen.

"The investigation will take time. Even if the elections are over, should the winner be found to have resorted to money politics, legal action will be taken by reporting the matter to the ACA," he said.

On the allegations made by Beserah state assemblyman Datuk Fauzi Abdul Rahman against Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, Dr Mahathir said: "A preliminary report has been sent to me. However, investigations are not over and we could not make a decision yet."

Fauzi, who is the Kuantan Umno division chief, had alleged, among others, that Khalid had mismanaged government resources while serving as Pahang Menteri Besar.

On Puteri Umno, Dr Mahathir said the new party wing must be supported by everybody in the party.

Puteri Umno must actively seek to get young women to join the movement, he added.

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