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MCA-Money Politics

MCA TO STUDY UMNO PROPOSAL TO DISALLOW THE RICH TO CONTEST

KUALA LUMPUR, April 23 (Bernama) -- The MCA will study the proposal by Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to stop wealthy Umno members from contesting key party posts in an effort to curb money politics.

MCA Secretary-General Datuk Seri Dr Ting Chew Peh said his party would study the proposal since it had come from the Prime Minister who is also the Barisan Nasional (BN) Chairman.

"Since he is the chairman of the Barisan Nasional, we also will study it but at the moment we don't really face the problem (of money politics)," he told reporters after the signing of a regional feeder incentive scheme agreement between the Port Klang Authority (KPA) and 13 regional feeder operators. Dr Ting is Chairman of the Port Klang Authority.

The incentive package is to develop a good feeder network to Port Klang from its regional hinterland.

He said most MCA members, especially branch and divisional leaders were from new villages and were not wealthy and this possibly had discouraged them from engaging in money politics.

However, he said, as a preventive measure, the party had issued guidelines to curb money politics in 1996 which, among others, barred members from using money and gifts as well as throwing dinners to influence voters.

Dr Ting said there would be some difficulty in defining the term "the rich" as was faced by the MCA itself in the 1996 and 1999 elections.

"That's why we only issued guidelines just to emphasise the seriousness of the party in preventing money politics," he said.

And since the guidelines were issued, the party had not received any complaint about money politics from members, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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