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Mahathir-Opposition

OPPOSITION LEADERS WHO RECEIVED LAND HID THEIR INTENTIONS

PUTRAJAYA, Nov 24 (Bernama) -- Opposition leaders who were previously with the Government obtained land and other privileges but hid their intentions to join opposition parties, the Prime Minister said today.

He said when these people were in the government, they kept their intentions to join the opposition to themselves, and asked for all kinds of things for themselves and their requests were met.

"But these people are never thankful. If we help them, they will bite us. This is their habit," he told reporters after launching the Asiaspace Dot Com Sdn Bhd at the Prime Minister's Department here.

Dr Mahathir said habits such as this were also taught to all the opposition party followers by these leaders.

"Not being thankful, being ungrateful when we help them. This is indeed despicable," the Prime Minister said.

A newspaper today quoted former Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib as saying that he was prepared to disclose the list of names of people who were given land including those in the opposition now, when he was the Selangor Chief Executive.

On Wednesday, PAS Secretary-General Nasharuddin Mat Isa had challenged Information Ministry Parliamentary Secretary Senator Zainuddin Maidin to name the opposition leaders who had obtained privileges from the Selangor Government.

Turning to other matters, the Prime Minister said the government was determined to ensure Malaysia did not go through a recession this year.

"If we follow the normal calculations in the first two quarters of this year, there is economic contraction, this means we are in recession. We hope in the fourth quarter the country will achieve some growth but enough to ensure overall positive growth for this year," he said.

Bank Negara Governor Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz at a media conference to announce Malaysia's financial and economic expansion for the third quarter (July, August September) yesterday said the country continued to register growth in the third quarter with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) expanding by 0.8 per cent compared to the previous quarter.

-- BERNAMA

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