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`Channel contributions to headquarters'

JOHOR BARU, Sat. - Umno leaders should channel their charitable contributions to party headquarters or state liaison committees to avoid being hauled up for breaching the party code of ethics, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said such donations could then be distributed to those in need.

"If they give it to only people in their own areas, this could be misconstrued as seeking to obtain the support of members," he told a Press conference after opening the 55th MIC annual general assembly.

He said this when asked about the statement by Datuk Abdullah Omar of the Muar division, whose election as chairman was revoked by the party disciplinary board recently on grounds that he had breached the party code of ethics.

The KFC Holding deputy vice-chairman had subsequently said he might leave the party for what he claimed was an unfair decision, claiming that he had merely engaged in corporate acts of charity.

Dr Mahathir said the party would have to study all aspects of the matter.

"Umno members sometimes feel a bit sad. They feel upset. The statement could have been made in haste. He may review his decision."

The Prime Minister said people who got upset usually came back after some time. "Just look at Keadilan members who are coming back to the party."

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