

11 MAY 2001

Mahathir-Money Politics

UMNO SERIOUS ABOUT CURBING MONEY POLITICS

KUALA LUMPUR, May 11 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Umno is serious about curbing money politics among party members and 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," he said in a serious tone.

"We cannot fool around, otherwise no one will believe the party. If we want to eradicate corruption and money politics, we must act," he told reporters after attending a ceremony to commemorate Umno's struggle and a meeting with Umno veterans at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

He said Umno had appointed a responsible body, namely the disciplinary board, to monitor the problem of money politics and its views and decisions should be considered and supported by all the members.

The prime minister was also asked whether the conditions for eligibility to contest was the reason the problem persisted.

He said although previously various conditions had been set and amended for the good of the party, greed was the reason money politics still existed.

"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," he said.

-- BERNAMA

ZAI RV ZS JK