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Mahathir-motion

SENAI UMNO DIVISION'S MOTION DOESN'T FOLLOW PARTY PROCEDURES, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, June 18 (Bernama) -- The motion of no-confidence vote against Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad presented by the Senai Umno Division did not follow party procedures, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Umno president said there were certain procedures which should be followed by any branch or division wishing to table a motion and the Senai Division did not follow them.

"It is clear that they (Bahagian Senai) have not followed the procedure. I understand that the motion was not moved in a complete divisional meeting...it was done by the divisional committee," he told a news conference here today after briefing the delegates to the Umno General Assembly which begins on Thursday.

Dr Mahathir said the meeting of a divisional committee was not competent to pass such a motion.

The Senai divisional committee at its special meeting last Wednesday approved a motion of no-confidence vote against Musa over the 10 per cent quota to the non-Bumiputera students in Mara Junior Science Colleges (MRSM) and the matriculation programme.

The division's chief, Adam Abdul Hamid was reported to have said that the 10 per cent quota had breached Article 153 of the Federal Constitution.

He said the article safeguards the special position of the Malays and it became part of the social contract agreed to by all communities when the country achieved independence.

Dr Mahathir said that if a party branch wanted to propose a motion, it must convene a meeting and the same procedure applied at the divisional level.

"At the divisional level, when we propose a motion we must convene a meeting. We can propose several motions to be tabled at the general assembly," he said.

He said the same procedure would also be followed at the general assembly where a motion proposed must be agreed by all the delegates present.

"If we make it so simple, then there will be no end to such motions," he said.

Dr Mahathir said no motion of no-confidence vote could be made against a minister, unless such motion was against the cabinet or the government.

"This means that the real purpose (of the motion) is against the government and Umno Supreme Council.

"Unfortunately, the person named was the Education Minister. He didn't do anything. I pity him," he said.

Asked whether the motion was null and void, Dr Mahathir said the matter would be decided by the permanent chairman, Tun Sulaiman Ninam Shah.

On his briefing to the delegates, the Prime Minister said he had advised them to consider developments within and outside the country when debating an issue.

He said he also briefed them on the challenges of globalisation, borderless world, significance of a free market and its effect on the special privileges of the Bumiputeras.

-- BERNAMA

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