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Mahathir-BN

BN HAS THE POWER TO DECIDE WHO CAN BE MEMBERS- PM

PUTRAJAYA, Dec 11 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today if any component political party is not prepared to abide by the Barisan Nasional stand then it means it no longer upholds the system of cooperation in the BN.

Dr Mahathir, who is the BN Chairman, said the BN had the power to determine which party could be its members.

Dr Mahathir said this when asked to comment on the statement by MCA President Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik yesterday that the BN could not directly impose any disciplinary action on individual members of component parties.

"Yes that is true. However the BN has the power to determine which party can be a member of the Barisan Nasional," he told reporters after launching the book "In the Time of the Mishmish: A Painting in Twenty Parts" by Alijah Gordon here.

Dr Ling was reported to have said that based on the BN Constitution, participation in the BN was based on parties and not individuals and hence it was the responsibility of the component party to take disciplinary action against its errant members.

The MCA is faced with the problem of dealing with two of its members who decided to abstain from a vote on a DAP motion tabled in the Penang State Assembly on Nov 21.

The two are Lim Boo Chang (Datuk Keramat) and Tan Cheng Liang (Jawi).

On another matter, Dr Mahathir said the Malaysian Government was ready to cooperate with Indonesian Police who wanted to trace the source of funds channelled to the Jemaah Islamiah (JI) for the bombing of Bali on Oct 12.

News reports today said that RM114,000 (US\$30,000) used in the funding of the bombers came from JI funds channelled to a Malaysian.

"We are ready to cooperate with Indonesian Police if they have the evidence to this effect," Dr Mahathir said.

-- BERNAMA

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