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Mahathir-MCA

ABSTENTION OF TWO BN MEMBERS VERY SERIOUS, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 26 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today described the move by the two Barisan Nasional members to abstain when a vote was taken on a DAP motion in the Penang State Assembly as a very serious matter and hinted that disciplinary action may be taken against them.

Dr Mahathir, who is also BN chairman, said that the party would look into the matter before taking a decision.

"Yes, that is a very serious thing. We will have to look into the incident and we will make a decision on that.

"This is a very serious thing...(it shows) lack of party discipline," he said at the Royal Malaysian Airforce (RMAF) station in Subang here on his return from Paris.

When asked whether any disciplinary action will be taken against the two state assemblymen, Lim Boo Chang (BN-Datuk Keramat) and Tan Cheng Liang (BN-Jawi), Dr Mahathir said: " Possible".

Dr Mahathir was also asked to comment on the statement that their move to abstain was said to have been taken in the interest of their constituents and reflecting the wishes of the people they represent.

"It means that the BN is not the voice of the people. If I need to ask my constituents, every time a vote is taken (in the Dewan Rakyat), I'll have to go back to ask my constituents," he said.

Dr Mahathir was also asked about the statement by Tan who was reported to have said that her decision was based on her conscience.

"If everybody's vote is based on conscience, there'll be no party. When seeking to join, to contest, (they'll) ask for the support of the party. After having won, they want to be independent. If the party has no support, can the party win.

"How many independent (candidates) have won in Malaysia. How many of that.... There are many independents contesting, seldom winning. It's the party that wins, meaning that we're banking on the party. We'll have to accept the discipline of the party," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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