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Mahathir-Ethics

BN TO HAVE CODE OF ETHICS FOR ITS MEMBERS

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 7 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional (BN) will have a code of ethics to supervise its state assemblymen and members of parliament to ensure that they toe the line and abide by all the decisions made by the BN leaders, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The prime minister said that the draft code of ethics would be discussed at the next BN supreme council but did not mention the date.

"In future, all state assemblymen from the BN component parties will be subjected to this rule and will abide by the BN stand at all times," Dr Mahathir, who is also the BN chairman, told reporters after chairing the BN supreme council meeting, here.

Earlier, BN secretary-general Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat, had said that the coalition would prepare a code of ethics for the BN members as currently there was no uniform code to supervise them and they were only subjected to their respective party discipline.

The move stemmed from the abstention by two Penang MCA state assembly members, Tan Cheng Liang (Jawi) and Lim Boo Chang (Datuk Keramat) last November from voting against a DAP motion to defer the Penang Outer Ring Road (Porr) project.

They were later suspended indefinitely by the MCA but Dr Mahathir announced today that the BN would decide when to lift the suspension.

"After discussion, we (decided that we) need not enhance the punishment but must fix the (suspension) period. Many BN members feel that we need to have clear rules on the responsibilities of BN elected representatives.

"We agreed that they must all support the BN government and have the same stand," he said.

He said that it was the BN's responsibility and no longer the MCA's to determine the duo's suspension period.

-- BERNAMA

MFZ MAM JK