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Mahathir-Voters

CABINET WILL STUDY EC'S REQUEST FOR MORE POWER- DR M

ALOR STAR, Jan 19 (Bernama) -- The Cabinet will study the Election Commission's request for more power to shift voters to different constituencies based on the address in their Identity Cards, the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"We will study their request...OK... if they want to prevent phantom voters," he told reporters at the Sultan Abdul Halim Airport in Kepala Batas near here before returning to Putrajaya.

Dr Mahathir and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali this morning attended the investiture at Istana Anak Bukit on the occasion of the 75th birthday of the Sultan of Kedah.

Dr Mahathir was conferred the Darjah Kerabat (DK), the state's highest award at the investiture.

Replying to another question from the press, Dr Mahathir, who is Umno President, said there could be more reshuffles of party office-bearers at state level to strengthen Umno before the next general election.

According to press reports Perak, Perlis, Kedah, Terengganu and Melaka were likely to have such reshuffles.

In GENTING HIGHLANDS, Pahang, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi also echoed the Prime Minister's views.

"The Government will discuss the matter in detail with the EC," he said after closing a colloquium on drug abuse.

"We want a set of regulations or laws that will guarantee the integrity of elections in this country," he added.

Asked if it would augur well for the EC to expand its powers, Abdullah said "Well, they are the regulator, they are also the law enforcer and organiser and we have to talk to them."

-- BERNAMA

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