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Muhyiddin-ACA

CASES OF MONEY POLITICS SHOULD BE HANDLED POLITICALLY

KUALA LUMPUR, April 27 (Bernama) -- Complaints of money politics involving Umno members should be resolved and handled politically, said Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

If it involved political elements that smacked of corruption which might be outside Umno's jurisdiction and encroached into some other areas, then the ACA (Anti-Corruption Agency) could certainly take action," he told reporters after representing Acting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi at the opening of the delegates meeting of the Titiwangsa Umno division, here today.

He said this when asked to comment on the suggestion by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim that Umno allowed the ACA to assist in any case of money politics in the party.

In Kota Baharu yesterday, Dr Rais said the ACA should be allowed to assist in investigations on cases of money politics if Umno was serious in eliminating such elements which could destroy the party.

Muhyiddin said that in tackling cases of money politics, Umno had already issued guidelines, code of ethics and disciplinary procedures in the party which had been enforced for some time.

"Certain actions have been taken although they are not comprehensive...for clear-cut cases (with proof), then political action is taken. Sometimes if the action is not clear from the other aspects besides politics, it is considered to be an offence because we have a code of ethics," he said.

Muhyiddin said Umno members should always be reminded of regulations and certain provisions in the party constitution pertaining to disciplinary actions that could be taken against those who had committed such offences.

"However, it's up to the Disciplinary Board because in the past, such activities had been curtailed (by Umno) to a certain extent," he said.

Earlier in his speech, Muhyiddin asked all Umno members to follow closely the present global scenario and strive to strengthen Malay resilience in tackling external challenges.

The strength and solidarity of the Malays with the other races in the country must be further enhanced as it could form a protective barrier should the country be threatened, he added.

He said foreign powers were always looking for opportunities to threaten the country's security including using the media.

Muhyiddin, who is also Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister, said this could be seen from the report by "The Economist" which was clearly malicious with its writer denying and belittling the country's achievement under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"The outside world knows, Malaysia, under his (Dr Mahathir's) leadership, is now a developing nation that is on par with the developed countries...in terms of economic achievements, social, foreign policy, development of the Muslims and people's harmony," he said.

At the function, he also launched Titiwangsa Umno division's official website and received a contribution of RM10,000 from the division for the Iraqi Humanitarian Fund.

-- BERNAMA

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