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Mahathir-Ethics

ETHICS ALONE CAN'T PREVENT SPLIT IN PARTY, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, June 20 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Umno election ethics will not be meaningful if they are not adhered to by party members.

The Umno president said although the party was thinking of ways of improving the existing election ethics, it would be useless if members did not practise them and they would not be able to overcome a split in the party.

"Ethics alone will not be meaningful if they are not practised. So, we need to have certain methods," he said at a media conference at the conclusion of the second day of the 54th Umno general assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre, here.

Dr Mahathir said this when asked to comment on the suggestion made during the debate at the assembly that Umno reviewed the election ethics to ensure that the party election next year would not lead to a split in Umno.

Asked on the possibility of Umno amending the party constitution to limit the party president's term, Dr Mahathir said: "Our solidarity is not based on laws alone but our ethics, and I believe that the Umno ethics can ensure whether the president's term will be long or a short one."

Dr Mahathir said in jest: "If too short, I would not have had the chance. So it's like this, if you don't like me as president, you shorten it (my term). Imagine how much I could do if it was shortened."

Responding to another question, he said when someone held the post of the Deputy Prime Minister, it had become a tradition that the post of Umno deputy president was not contested.

"Its tradition, we don't make laws. It's sufficient that it only becomes a tradition," he said.

On the suggestion of a delegate at the Umno Youth general assembly that a Malay be made Penang Chief Minister to champion the cause of the Malays, Dr Mahathir said:

"We gave it to the Malays in Kelantan, yet their (the Malay) cause was not championed. It's not a matter of the person but the question of how we manage our work. We can think of how to look after the welfare of the Malays in Penang."

-- BERNAMA

JM ZS MOZ AO