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Mahathir-Council

GOVT THE VICTIM OF CORRUPT, INEFFICIENT LOCAL COUNCILS, SAYS MAHATHIR

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 27 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that local councils which continue with their corrupt and inefficient ways will do a lot of damage to the government in the long run.

The Prime Minister said that the erosion of the government's popularity would be seen especially if they were from government parties.

"If they do not perform, we'll have to remove them," he told a media conference after attending a function at the Finance Ministry here.

Dr Mahathir said that sometimes local councillors do not want to be unpopular, prompting them to avoid collecting taxes and so on.

In cases like these, he said, "we'll have to force them."

He was responding to questions on the reported below par performance of some local councils which has given rise to complaints from members of the society.

Dr Mahathir also said that he was in favour of appointing local councillors rather than electing them.

He said if campaigns were held for local council elections, then such events would be dominated by politics.

"Those involved won't be talking about drains, better service or whatever. They will talk about this person is from PAS, he is from Umno and he is from DAP," he said.

He said that the administrators had to remove politics from some of government functions.

"Otherwise the concentration will be purely on politics," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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