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Mahathir-Party

THE MOOD IS AGAINST BICKERING WITHIN THE PARTY, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, June 19 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the current mood in Umno is against bickering within the party and this would last right up to the party elections next year.

The Umno President said party members involved in bickering would be guilty of going against the mood of the majority.

"So, if there are people who want to do it, they will not get the support," he said at a media conference at the end of the first day of the 54th Umno General Assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC), here.

He said the approach to avoid bickering during the party elections next year would be to expose the problem beforehand.

"I see the spirit of Umno members at its peak. They support our call against bickering and the support to Pak Lah (his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi) is very strong," he said.

On the suggestion by a delegate to hold an early general election, Dr Mahathir who is also Prime Minister, said he believed that the mood would remain right up to the general election.

He said that based on the mood, he believed that Umno and the Barisan Nasional (BN) would achieve a greater victory in the next general election compared to the 1999 general election.

On the praises showered upon him by the delegates during the presidential debate, he said: "I have already said there should not be any compliment. But I cannot stop them. I view it as an indirect show of confidence to the party. They praised the leadership of the party and not for myself."

To another question, Dr Mahathir said he would look into a minor Cabinet reshuffle following the resignation of Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik as Transport Minister.

Asked whether he was sad as he would be leaving the presidential post, Dr Mahathir said: "Not because of leaving...I am sad because if you hear the end of my speech...(it is) my prayer for the party."

-- BERNAMA

JM ERE KHY ABG