

**Parliamentary Select Committee Not Wish Of Opposition Alone, Says Dr M**  
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PUTRAJAYA -- Former prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the setting up of a parliamentary select committee on electoral reform was not based on the wish of the opposition alone.

While supporting the establishment of the committee, he said there was also a lot of cheating on the part of the opposition during his time as prime minister.

He disclosed that there was a house whose address was 'shared' by about 50 individuals who were not residents of that place.

Somehow or rather, the opposition managed to register the people in that constituency, he noted.

"This kind of things, the EC (Election Commission) should look into," Dr Mahathir told reporters after launching a fund-raising campaign for famine victims in Somalia via Tabung Bencana NSTP-Media Prima at the Perdana Leadership Foundation here.

Also present were his wife, Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Media Prima Berhad Executive Director, News and Editorial Operations, Ahmad Talib and Mercy Malaysia Vice-President Associate Profesor Dr Mohamed Ikram Mohamed Salleh.

Last Monday, Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak announced the setting up of the committee which put to rest any suspicion that there was manipulation by the government in the country's electoral process.

Najib had said the committee, comprising government and opposition members, would have its first meeting on Wednesday and discuss "everything that needs to be done" and reach a consensus on the matter.

On general elections, Dr Mahathir said generally, elections in the country were clean.

"But I must stress this, it is not something rampant as you see in countries where 99 per cent of the votes goes to one particular party.

"In Malaysia, every election, you will find the opposition winning seats and winning even the seats in different states. There may be some hanky-panky, but generally, the elections in Malaysia are clean," he added.

Asked whether the introduction of the committee was because of international backlash, with reference to Bersih, Dr Mahathir said: "It is not because of the international backlash, it is local backlash."

Earlier, in his speech, he hoped Malaysians would extend their support to the campaign as the Somalian people needed Malaysian aid.

"We have been collecting a lot of money to help Gaza, the earthquake victims in Pakistan, and the people in Aceh because of the tsunami.

"I thought we had become a bit tired but I am glad to say that it is not true. People do feel that we need to do something to help these poor people," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Yayasan Al-Bukhary had pledged its support by donating RM750,000 to the fund, Perdana Global Peace Foundation (PGPF) RM50,000, and another association, RM10,000.

Later, he handed over a personal contribution to the fund.

The fund-raising campaign is a collaboration of NSTP-Media Prima with Mercy Malaysia and PGPF. The collections from the fund will be channelled towards providing medical aid and humanitarian needs to the famine victims of Somalia.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, famine exists in two regions of southern Somalia.

(Bernama)

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