

Delegates bribed RM200, alleges Dr M

PUTRAJAYA: A preferred list and a RM200 bribe, were Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's explanations for his defeat in the Kubang Pasu Umno election."

The former prime minister pulled out a sheet of paper which contained seven numbers and said the "preferred list" was circulated among delegates.

He, however, admitted that number 10, which belonged to his son Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir, who was elected as one of the seven delegates to the Umno general assembly was not on the list.

Dr Mahathir claimed he was told that some of the voters received RM200 not to vote for him.

Speaking at a Press conference held at the Perdana Leadership Foundation here yesterday, Dr Mahathir claimed such methods were going to be "pervasive" in Umno elections.

"I accept that I lost, but I also want to state that I lost because they used bribery to win the elections.

"I know it was bribery because it was very 'strange that a list containing the numbers of those who should be chosen was provided to a number of delegates and the, people who won were on that list," he said.

"The list, I believe, was put in a brown envelope together with the money which I have been told was RM200. So, the price of the honour of these delegates is RM200 and for RM200 they were quite prepared not to choose me but to choose other people," he said.

He did not provide any evidence but said a woman gave him the list and told him of the bribe.

He said despite the numerous attempts to silence him, he would continue to expose the misdeeds of the present government.

"The only way they can stop me is to throw me in jail," he said.

Asked if he would encourage those who pocketed the bribes to lodge a report, Dr Mahathir said he believed they would not come forward as they would be subjected to questioning for having accepted the money in the first place.

He added that he would not lodge a report about the bribery to the Umno disciplinary committee as there were several members on the committee who were against him.

On Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's assurance that he would be invited for the Umno general assembly in November, Dr Mahathir said he would decide at a later date if he would attend it.