

Lodge bribe complaint with board, Dr M urged

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PETALING JAYA: Lodge an official complaint and let the disciplinary board investigate.

This was the reaction from Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Najib Razak when asked about Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's allegations.

"According to procedure, any complaint on money politics should be made to the Umno disciplinary board, and it should be backed with specific proof or details that can be used as a basis for an investigation.

"We definitely want to eliminate money politics. This is the commitment of the party leadership. However, we cannot act without any official report and proof," he said.

Speaking to reporters after opening the Ninth National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Conference and Exhibition on Occupational Safety and Health, Najib said the board is an independent body.

"The Umno disciplinary board is not under the party leadership. It has done its work all this while, and we know that even those holding high posts in the party have been found guilty.

"So far it has done a good job," he said.

Asked if an investigation could be carried out without a report, Najib said the procedure was clear. There had to be a formal complaint for an allegation to be investigated.

"Anyone from the Kubang Pasu division could make a formal complaint. It need not be Dr Mahathir himself," he said.

On Dr Mahathir's statement that he would continue to speak against government decisions which he felt were wrong, Najib said there was no way for the Umno leadership to prevent this.

"He feels strongly about certain things. There is no way we can stop him from saying those things. The important thing is that we are able to convince the people that the policies we formulate, the decisions that we make are in the best interests of the nation and the people.

"That is what matters in the final analysis. You can't expect us to agree to whatever he (Dr Mahathir) says, but this does not mean we do not respect him as a person. We do, but that does not mean that the government would agree to whatever he says or wants," said Najib.