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Dr M: Only jail can stop me

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PUTRAJAYA: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday declared that his defeat in Kubang Pasu was not the end of the road for him and that the government will have to throw him in jail to stop him from continuing with his criticisms.

Mahathir blamed money politics for his failure to be elected as a Kubang Pasu delegate to the Umno general assembly in November and vowed to continue his confrontation with the party and government.

At a press conference yesterday, he provided what he alleged was evidence of money politics - a brown envelope that contained RM200 and a piece of paper asking delegates who received it to vote only for certain people.

"There was this piece of paper in the envelope asking delegates to vote candidates according to the ballot list - 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11 and 14. But number 14

was not elected and instead my son Datuk Mukhriz was elected.

"I saw the candidates' numbers and true enough, the numbers on the list were the ones that won. This is the honour of the Malays ... worth RM200."

Mahathir admitted the evidence may not stand up in a court of law, but he would not report to the Umno disciplinary committee as he did not trust it and witnesses would also not come forward as they had been threatened.

"I was told by someone that people saw a briefcase sent from Kuala Lumpur to certain groups and money was given in envelopes to those who were voting," he said.

Mahathir said he received the slip of paper from a delegate who came to shake his hands.

On Saturday, Mahathir obtained 227 votes, placing him in ninth position out of the 15 candidates at the Kubang Pasu division meeting. Only the top seven get to attend the

Umno general assembly.

At yesterday's press conference, Mahathir also spoke to about 50 of his supporters who came to the Perdana Leadership Foundation uninvited to show their support.

He reiterated that he would continue to expose what the government was doing.

"You can't try to shut my mouth ... because I have a big mouth and I am going to use my big mouth to expose the misdeeds of this present government, including their lies," he said.

"The truth will prevail one day and we have to pay for it, including for changing the Malaysian government into a family government.

"(The) only way they can stop me is by putting me in jail. They are afraid of me and if they are not in the wrong, there was no need for them to be afraid of me."

Asked if he wanted Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to step down,

Mahathir said: "Either he changes or he steps down."

Asked if this meant he wanted to see a change of government, he said: "Change of policies or government is for Umno to decide."

Mahathir spoke again about issues he had touched on like sale of raw water to Singapore, Khairy Jamaluddin, Approved Permits, and Scomi. He also questioned the country's current foreign policy with the United States, Britain, Australia, the crooked bridge and why was there a need for Malaysia to send a

peacekeeping force to Lebanon when the intention of the United Nations was to protect Israel.

He also called for an independent audit into Proton and Khazanah Nasional.

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- Mahathir

