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No benefit in having debates between races, says Dr M

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PUTRAJAYA: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said debates between the races will not bring any benefit because each race will continue to hold on to its own stand.

He said this when approached after attending a closed-door meeting with the right-wing group, Perkasa, at the Perdana Leadership Foundation, here this afternoon.

Mahathir said his meeting with Perkasa yesterday was to discuss issues pertaining to the Malay race, and other problems faced by the community, including factionalism.

Responding to a question, Mahathir said there was no need to hold a debate (involving the prime minister) and Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim as the opposition leader's stand on many issues were already known to all.

"He is everything to everybody, he is a chameleon, he changes colour every time. When he is with the Indian he is Indian, when he is with Muslims he will give talks about Islam. All they are fighting for is to make him a prime minister, that's all," he said.

Meanwhile, Perkasa president Datuk Ibrahim Ali said the party's legal bureau was studying the possibility of suing Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng for defamation for his remarks during his debate with MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek.

"During the debate, he (Lim) had mentioned Perkasa having a relationship with the MCA and that Perkasa would create chaos.

"So we are looking at his video (debate) many, many times and I have instructed the lawyers to study all legal aspects (with a view) to suing Lim Guan Eng because we cannot allow him to continue making these allegations," he said.

He said Lim's allegations were baseless because Perkasa had never held any illegal assembly.

He also said he was now prepared to debate with Lim on the topics of "Who is more racist, DAP or Perkasa?" and "Who is more (of a) trouble-maker, Perkasa or DAP?", and let the people judge for themselves. - Bernama



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