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Dr M: Delegates given chance to criticise leadership

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PUTRAJAYA: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad expressed satisfaction with Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia's (Bersatu) second annual general assembly, saying it opened opportunities for members to criticise the leadership, and for the latter to take stock of itself.

Delegates from all states, said the Bersatu chairman, were given room to air their views and a host of ideas were gleaned from the debate sessions.

"They (delegates) were given the opportunity to criticise the leadership and to criticise themselves. A lot of good advice was also given by debaters as well as (good) replies from the members of the supreme council.

"Many things were clarified. I think generally the delegates appeared to be satisfied with the meeting, with the explanations given to them," said Dr Mahathir after the end of the three-day assembly at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre.

He urged delegates to be dedicated.

"They should also strive to increase membership numbers as we feel that, due to certain circumstances, our performance in the last election was not as good as expected. But we did contribute to the victory. We were equally responsible for gaining the victory over the previous gov-

ernment."

Asked about the level of unity in Pakatan Harapan following the challenges faced since forming the federal government, the prime minister described the coalition as being "very stable". But he took a swipe at the government's detractors, in particular the media.

"Investors are very happy with our performance and our assurances (for) both domestic and foreign.

"Of course, we are not stable in the eyes of journalists because if we were stable, there would be nothing to report."

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on a call by Bersatu vice-president Tan Sri Abdul Rashid Ab Rahman to reinstate the Federal Development De-

partment (JPP) and give projects to party divisions to finance their activities.

Dr Mahathir said the matter would have to be looked into.

"We will think up the best way by being fair and without violating the law," he said.

He said Bersatu was firm on its

stand against corruption. He said should Bersatu members be awarded contracts, it should not be automatically assumed that it was because they were from the party.

"Some of our people are capable and were discriminated against by the previous government. I think they now feel they have a chance to tender for contracts.

"If they get a contract, don't assume that it's because they are from the party.

"They are equally capable.

"There is no discrimination, unlike that practised by the previous government."

Asked to give his assurance that fair process would be adhered to in awarding projects, Dr Mahathir said the right

thing to do would be through a tender process.

"We can't be assured of everything. There is the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

"If they do anything wrong, you can be assured MACC will investigate them."

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