

'Pakatan does not use money to buy people's support'

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KUALA LUMPUR: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad says Pakatan Harapan never gave out money to woo the people to support the coalition.

The Prime Minister said, however, that the government provided financial aid for those in need.

Speaking to the media at the launch of Astana City Group's new liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) composite cylinder, he said if the government had to provide (development

allocation) money, it would do so.

"If the money is given by the government, everybody will get it. That is all.

"Pakatan Harapan never used money to give to anyone," he said when asked to comment on photos of a woman wearing a red Pakatan T-shirt handing out money to several orang asli in Cameron Highlands.

Jelai Pakatan operations centre assistant chief Arvind Bharet had claimed that the money was meant to reimburse petrol cost for volunteers who went to support Pakatan

candidate M. Manogaran during nomination on Saturday.

The pictures drew strong criticism from Umno and MCA, which said that such a thing could not be accepted at all.

On the event, the Prime Minister gave his assurance that the government would keep supporting local businesses based on its financial capabilities.

Dr Mahathir said although the government's allocation was limited, it was still important to see local businesses thrive and continue to

boost the country's economy.

"Local companies which are currently receiving financial assistance should find ways so that they will not be dependent on any help from the government.

"This will then allow the allocation to be channelled to those who are truly in need," he said.

Asked to specify which industries were being given aid and the conditions for such aid, Dr Mahathir said: "It depends on each industry and whether we want the industries to be in Malaysia or not.

"Sometimes when they are just beginning (the business), they cannot make any profit, we will help them in the initial phase."

Astana City is the seventh operator to be involved in LPG marketing and was given the LPG gas handling subsidy by the Finance Ministry in November.



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