

# 'FUNDING WILL BE MONITORED'

Political Funding Bill  
to be tabled soon

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**P**RIME Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Political Funding Bill to be tabled in Parliament

soon will monitor and scrutinise funding, including donations, to parties.

He said there was fear that the monies contributed to political parties may have elements of corruption.

"We have a problem here. Political parties need money, but on the other hand, the money given to political parties might involve corruption.

"In other words, money is given because of certain things that the donor will receive (in return).

"Therefore, we have to monitor these very carefully," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this after the Special Cabinet Committee on Anti-Corruption meeting.

He said parties needed funds for their activities and programmes, but at the same time the government did not want certain individuals to take the money, claiming that it was for the party.

"Of course, political parties need money, but we don't want the money to be pocketed by



Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad speaking in Putrajaya yesterday. With him are National Centre for Governance, Integrity and Anti-Corruption director-general Tan Sri Abu Kassim Mohamed (left) and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr Ismail Bakar. PIC BY LUQMAN HAKIM ZUBIR

some people who receive the money.

"We must have documents to show that money was contributed.

"At the moment, people can give cash to some leaders who claim to be representing the party, but it may go into their pockets."

He said through the bill, the authorities would have knowledge about how much money went to political parties and whether it amounted to a political donation.

Dr Mahathir, who is Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia chairman,

said anyone could donate but he should not expect anything in return.

"You can give money to Bersatu if you like, and if you have the money, we don't mind receiving it. But we will not give you anything. I will not give you any special treatment."

In January, Dr Mahathir said political funding was a big problem and that the government was finding ways to legislate it.

The National Centre for Governance, Integrity and Anti-Corruption had said it was in talks with parties for a Political Fund-

ing Bill to be presented to the cabinet.

On issues he would raise at the 74th United Nations General Assembly next week, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia's stand would be quite simple.

"We will speak the truth.

"We will criticise where we need to criticise and we will also praise certain things done by the UN.

"The contents of my speech, of course, will be revealed later on," he added.

He is expected to leave for the UN in New York, the United States, next week.