

Dr M backs move to set up panel
The Sun Daily
August 17, 2011
By Husna Yusop

PUTRAJAYA (Aug 17, 2011): The government's decision to set up a parliamentary select committee on electoral reforms does not mean it is catering to the wishes of the opposition.

While expressing support for the move announced on Monday by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad claimed during his time as the premier, "there was a lot of cheating" on the part of the opposition parties, too.

"There was one house which was used as the address for about 50 different people who are not residents of that place. Somehow or rather, they managed to register these people in that constituency.

"These kind of things the Elections Commission (EC) should look into," the former prime minister told a press conference after the launch of the fund raising campaign for famine victims in Somalia via the 'Tabung Bencana NSTP-Media Prima.'

Mahathir however, said the "hanky panky" during elections as alleged by many is not rampant.

"I must stress that it is not something rampant as you see in countries where 99% of the votes goes to one particular party.

"In Malaysia, during every election, you will see the opposition winning seats and winning even different states. So, there may be some hanky panky, but generally elections in Malaysia are clean... not absolutely clean, but clean (enough)," he added.

Asked whether he thinks Najib made the decision due to international backlash following the government's handling of the Bersih 2.0 rally, Mahathir said: "Not because of international backlash, it is local backlash."

The fundraising campaign is collaboration between NSTP-Media Prima, Mercy Malaysia and Perdana Global Peace Foundation (PGPF), meant to channel medical aid and humanitarian needs to the Somalis.

Mahathir who is also PGPF president said despite the rising cost of living in the country, he expected to receive good response for the fund as "Malaysians are a generous lot."

He said so far the fund has received pledges from donors including RM750,000 from Yayasan Al-Bukhary and RM50,000 from PGPF.

The Sun Daily
Copyright © 2011 Sun Media Corporation Sdn. Bhd.
Source: <http://www.thesundaily.my/news/115275>