

Lavish lifestyle alone enough for graft charge, says Dr Mahathir
Malaysian Insider
Nov 11, 2015
By Anisah Shukry

Malaysian courts should accept an individual's lavish lifestyle as evidence of corruption, former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Speaking at an anti-corruption conference, Dr Mahathir said a lavish lifestyle, such as owning many luxurious cars, was indicative of graft, and if the court were to take action based on that alone, there would be less corruption.

"If you want to detect corruption at the highest level, look at his lifestyle," Dr Mahathir said in his speech at Malaysia's War On Corruption Symposium 2015.

He said someone who was corrupt would not be able to resist spending the money, as "accumulating boxes of money and then dying is no fun".

"Unfortunately, if you go to the court of law, that is not sufficient evidence. (The court wants to see people coming forward and say, 'he took money from me'...

"The court should accept the evidence of lavish lifestyle as sufficient to take action on anyone suspected of being corrupt.

"If you have this happening, less chance of people in high places to become corrupt."

Mahathir had previously hit out at Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, accusing them of a "lavish lifestyle" which he said did not match the salary of a prime minister.

He had also criticised the wedding reception of the prime minister's daughter, calling it "wedding of the century".

Mahathir today said one of the most important ways to keep a society free from corruption was to ensure the "man at the very top" is free of corruption.

"But how are you going to prevent him for being corrupt? He should be subjected to the same laws of corruption applied to everyone else," said Mahathir.

However, he added that Malaysians were very tolerant of corruption among people in "high places", and warned that more money will be lost if it was ignored. – November 11, 2015.

Copyright © 2015 Edge Insider Sdn Bhd

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/lavish-lifestyle-enough-for-court-action-against-graft-says-dr-mahathir>