

Resolutions on palace interferences

Umno leaves

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it to divisions

By NORAINI SHARIFF

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — The Umno supreme council will leave it to the divisions to decide whether they want to submit resolutions on palace interferences in politics at the party's annual general assembly later this month.

"We will not influence any division which may want to submit a resolution on the matter," Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"We are aware of the controversy which arose out of the recent general election. It is up to the divisions to submit the resolution about the developments in a certain State where the Ruler participated," Dr Mahathir told reporters after chairing a supreme council meeting this morning.

He was asked to comment on the statement made by the Tanjung and Jelutong divisions in Penang, which said that they had detected interference from the palaces in the political process in several States.

Following this, both divisions said they intended to submit a resolution on the matter to the assembly, which begins on Nov 29.

Several other divisions in other States have also voiced their support for the proposal.

Dr Mahathir said: "We cannot stop them from forwarding the resolution."

Asked whether the supreme council would vet any proposed resolution before they are debated at the assembly, Dr Mahathir said the party headquarters and the resolutions committee had yet to see the actual proposal.

Normally, the resolutions committee will consider the interest shown by members when deciding which resolutions are to be tabled at the assembly.

The Prime Minister was also asked to comment on the statement made by Sabah Chief Minister Datuk

Seri Joseph Pairin Kitingan who urged Sabahans to reject the entry into Sabah of Umno and any other party from the peninsula.

Dr Mahathir said the Parti Bersatu Sabah president and other PBS leaders were afraid of Umno's entry into the State.

"Some of them fear that their faults will be exposed by Umno's entry into Sabah. So far, they have ruled Sabah as they liked without anyone making comments.

"But with Umno there, they are afraid we may be able to detect any malpractice in the State.

"The belief among some people that Sabah is only for Sabahans is not true because Sabah is not only for Sabahans but for all Malaysians as it is a part of Malaysia. The other States have accepted Sabahans as Malaysians."

Dr Mahathir then told newsmen of an incident when he was once asked by Sabah Foundation director Datuk

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Dr Jeffery Kitingan if a Sabahan could become a Prime Minister.

Dr Mahathir said: "A Sabahan cannot, but a Malaysian can. If he wants to be the Sabah Prime Minister of Malaysia, then there is no place (for him).

"I am the Prime Minister of Malaysia because I am a Malaysian. I am not the Kedah Prime Minister of Malaysia."

Dr Mahathir said Dr Jeffery's question reflected the shallow and parochial thinking of some Sabah leaders.

Dr Mahathir said the council discussed Umno's entry into Sabah at the meeting and it was felt that a careful study should be made, taking into consideration all elements in the State.

The council, however endorsed the party's decision to set up branches in Sabah, he said.

He said the meeting also discussed the outcome of the general election as well as the coming party assembly.