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Mahathir-Azman
MAHATHIR SAYS DELEGATES MUST RESPECT CHAIRMAN

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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 7, (Bernama) -- Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reminded party members to respect the rules of meeting and decisions of the permanent chairman to enable the Umno general assembly to proceed smoothly.

The respect for the chair must be upheld even if the delegates were unhappy with the decisions of the permanent chairman, he said.

+If there is no system of respect for the chair, we cannot have an orderly meeting,+ he told reporters at the end of the second day today of the Umno general assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

Dr Mahathir said, he was unhappy over the argument between Federal Territory delegate Datuk Azman Attar Othman and permanent chairman Tan Sri Sulaiman Ninam Shah during the debate today on the motion of thanks to the president's opening address . .

The argument took place after Sulaiman advised, Azman to abide by his decision and not ask certain delegates from among members of the supreme council to shake hands with one another to show that there was no misunderstanding between them as alleged by certain opposition political parties. -- more

▼07/11/20-29MST

CNS0625
R PE 07-11 00157 EA516
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Asked whether the incident has had an effect on Umno's tradition of decorum at meetings, Dr Mahathir said he would leave it to party members and the public to interpret that.

+I do not want to make any comment,+ he said.

On allegations by a Sabah Umno delegate that certain federal Umno leaders had visited the state to make demands for next year's assembly, when elections would be held, Dr Mahathir said he did not know whether this had happened.

+We sent our leaders from here to help in Sabah but if this has happened then it is very disappointing, t he said.

Dr Mahathir also said that the government could not ban books on politics which were published for sale or distribution free of charge at every Umno general assembly unless their contents were detrimental to national security . -- more

▼07/11/20-31MST

CNS0623
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The government could not prohibit anyone from writing books, he said. He also said that books on politics which contained inaccurate information recorded better sales.

+I feel they (the writers) have no principles because they seek Profits by creating problems where there are none,+ he said.

Dr Mahathir also said that he did not know whether the Poison-Pen letters discrediting certain Umno leaders originated from party members or its rivals. -- Bernama

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