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Mahathir-Umno

DO NOT SPLIT PARTY, PM ADVISES POTENTIAL CANDIDATES

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KUALA LUMPUR, March 26, (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today advised potential candidates in the Umno elections ~~in November this year~~ to refrain from any action that can split the party.

"They can contest (the elections), but in an orderly manner," he told reporters at a Hari Raya "open house" for VIPs at his Sri Perdana residence here. Dr Mahathir held an "open house" for the public yesterday.

The candidates must remind themselves of what happened in 1987 when several candidates caused the party to split, said Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president.

He said he wanted the candidates to ensure that this was not repeated.

"Therefore, do not resort to unhealthy practices," he said. -- more

▼26/03/16-34MST

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Mahathir-Umno 2, Kuala Lumpur

Elections will be held during the Umno general assembly scheduled for three days from Nov 4. The Umno Youth and Wanita Umno assemblies will be held on Nov 3.

Information Minister and Umno secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, who attended the "open house", said Umno had served a writ on the Sabah government and the State Legislative Assembly regarding the amendment to the State Constitution which empowers the assembly to expel any member for indiscipline or abuse of the people's mandate.

"Umno's lawyers have served the writ on the Sabah Legislative Assembly because we feel the new law restricts the freedom of members of the assembly," he told reporters.

On March 16, the Supreme Court ruled as void the Sabah "anti-hop" law which was approved on May 20, 1986.

Following this, Sabah Umno liaison deputy chief Tun Datu Mustapha Datu Harun said he intended to file a suit in the High Court challenging the recently gazetted amendment to the State Constitution. -- more

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Mahathir-Umno 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Mohamed said the writ was served several days after the Supreme Court ruling on the "anti-hop" law.

He said that, if the new law could also be declared void, Umno would accept the remaining nine of the 11 Umno assemblymen immediately. Two of the assembly had announced their decision to join Umno soon after the Supreme Court ruling on the "anti-hop" law.

Describing the new law as "anti-democratic", he said that, as the law was still in force, Umno had advised the Umno assemblymen to wait for a court decision before joining Umno.

Mohamed also said that he would announce in Johor Baharu tomorrow the date for Umno branch and divisional elections.

According to newspaper reports, branch elections must be held in May and June and divisional elections in last July and August. -- Bernama