

Mahathir-Umno

UMNO ACCEPTS MARINA'S APPLICATION

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KUALA LUMPUR, May 8, (Bernama) -- Former Semangat 46 vice-president Hajah Marina Yusof was accepted as an Umno member by its supreme council which met here today.

Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Marina was joining the Kulim Bandar Baru Umno division.

"Our policy is to accept anyone whom we think fit to be a member and a person's past is no obstacle," he told reporters after chairing the meeting at the party's headquarters.

Marina, 51, contested for the Lembah Pantai parliamentary seat on a Semangat 46 ticket in the 1990 general election and lost to the Barisan Nasional candidate from Umno, Encik Mohamad Kamal Hussein. -- more

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▼08/05/18-10MST

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Marina, a lawyer, was an Umno supreme council member before the party was declared unlawful in 1988 following problems in the party elections the previous year.

A strong supporter of Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah who lost in the election for the president's post, Marina did not join the revived Umno but followed the Gua Musang MP and joined Semangat 46.

She was made Semangat 46 vice-president on Oct 12, 1989, and resigned from that post and all other posts in the party in November the following year.

Dr Mahathir said that besides Marina, many ordinary members of Semangat 46 had joined Umno.

"I believed only one person does not want to join (Umno), the others all want to join...in the end that party will have only one member, he said, apparently referring to Tengku Razaleigh, the Semangat 46 president.

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Dr Mahathir said the meeting also decided that all divisional and branch elections would proceed except in Sabah because of the possibility of a state election.

Moreover, he said, the elections at committee level in the divisions and branches in that state had been held last year.

Delegates from Sabah would definitely attend the party's general assembly in November and would have the right to vote for posts in the supreme council, he added.

Dr Mahathir also said that all Umno branches and divisions must accept subscriptions from party members for 1992.

Commenting on the matter later, party secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said some branches and divisions had refused to accept the subscriptions to prevent the members concerned from taking part in the branch or divisional elections.

"Umno members can report to the headquarters if their subscriptions are not accepted by the branches and divisions, he told reporters. -- Bernama

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