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Mahathir-Umno

PM CAN ONLY ADVISE AGAINST CONTEST FOR UMNO NO 2

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TAPAH, July 22, (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister ~~Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir~~ Mohamad today said there is no need for him to insist on party members that the Umno deputy presidency should not be contested.

He could only advise them strongly that there should not be a contest for the Umno number two post, said Dr Mahathir who is party president.

The Prime Minister said his stance on the matter was clear and he had done his utmost to convey just that.

"I think, ideally there should not be a contest because of the tradition in Umno. We don't contest a post if there is an incumbent," he said.

Reporters asked the Prime Minister this during a press conference before he returned to Kuala Lumpur after a two-day official visit to Perak.-- more

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▼22/07/19-55MST

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Mahathir-Umno 2 Tapah

"I can't force. I can only advise. And strongly at that," he said.

The Prime Minister was also asked how far he would go to avoid a contest for the Umno deputy president post.

Dr Mahathir said; "I think I've made clear my stand and I've given my advice. I've done what I could possibly do."

The contest for the post could only be avoided through persuasion, said the Prime Minister adding; "But that's my opinion".

He however acknowledged that in the existing system in Umno, it was difficult to stop anyone from contesting a post if the person was nominated for it.

"But I hope my advice would be heeded," he said.-- more

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▼22/07/20-18MST

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Mahathir-Umno 3 (last) Tapah

The Prime Minister said that in his closed-door meeting with Perak Umno leaders had stressed to them the importance of preserving unity within the party.

On report that Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan would dissolve the Sabah state legislative assembly to pave way for state election, Dr Mahathir said the BN would contest all out.

On the possibility that Pairin might decide to hold the election during the November's Umno elections, he said:

"If he's a politician, naturally he will decide on the date, best for him, not for his adversaries. We're his adversaries."

But, he said Umno would campaign actively even if the state election coincided with the party's elections just to ensure victory for the BN.

--Bernama

JO ABC

▼22/07/22-45MST