

aae

Here requested repetition

Mahathir-presidency

PM SAYS HIS ADVICE APPLIES ONLY TO NUMBER TWO POST

bm

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 5<sup>93</sup> (bernama) -- The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said he is advising Umno members to avoid contest only for the deputy presidency in the November party elections and not for the number one post as well.

He said he felt it would be better for Umno if there was no contest for the number two post although the Umno constitution allowed this.

"I thought if there is no contest for the number two post, it is better for Umno as traditionally it is not contested, but the party constitution allows contest."

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, was speaking at a news conference after chairing a three-and-a-half-hour meeting of the party's supreme council at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here.

He said he could not tell others not to contest the Umno presidency against him and that anyone could contest.

"It's not the top two posts, top one post only," he said when asked whether he still maintained that the top two posts should not be contested.-- more

JO RN RN

▼05/08/19-03MST

U PK 05-08 00150 EA073

aae

Mahathir-presidency 2 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir was also asked on the council's stand on party members' expressed and open backing for party leaders to contest for certain posts.

He said the supreme council had no stand on the matter.

Umno members could do anything constitutional, he said.

"In this matter we only advise them so that they will take into account party tradition and other matters," he said.

The Prime Minister said today's supreme council meeting did discuss "more or less" the coming party elections.

Council members felt that internal politics in Umno was not that tumultuous as it was made out to be, he said.

"And they each believe that they can control emotions and ensure that party unity does not suffer merely because of the elections," he said. --

more

JO RN

▼05/08/15-57MST

aae

Mahathir-presidency 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir also commented on Government Back-Benchers Club (BBC) leader Shahidan Kassim's statement of support for Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to contest against incumbent Chafar Baba for the deputy presidency.

He said the matter was discussed in passing and regarded it as normal.

"We feel that a body outside Umno should not be involved in the elections," he said.

The Prime Minister declined to comment whether DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang's motion in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday on Chafar's position as Deputy Prime Minister was following Shahidan's statement.

"He speaks when he feels like speaking. After speaking he'll say the country is undemocratic. In an undemocratic country, he could be arrested," he said.

Earlier Dr Mahathir announced the names of 10 members of the Umno election committee.

They are Tan Sri Mustafa Jabar, Tan Sri Abdul Samad Idris, Tan Sri Sharif Ahmad, Tan Sri Haji Azahari Mat Taib, Datuk Hormat Rafaei, Datuk Ahmad Razali Mohamad Ali, Datuk Melan Abdullah, Datuk Siti Rahmah Mohamad Kassim, Datuk Paduka Hajah Fatimah Abdul Majid and Tan Sri Khir Johari. --  
Bernama

JO RN

▼05/08/16-34MSY