

CNS3854

U PR 06-09 00175 KGB42

aae

Mahathir-Umno

MEMBERS SENSIBLE NOT TO SPLIT UMNO, SAYS PM

bm

93
P
KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 6 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is confident that Umno members are sensible enough not to let the party elections in November split ~~them~~.

Dr Mahathir, who is party president, said Umno had gone through and survived worse crises than that currently posed by the upcoming party elections.

"I think this is very minor compared to previous contest," he told reporters after chairing the Umno Supreme Council monthly meeting here today.

He was asked why the supreme council itself did not act to prevent a contest for the Umno deputy presidency so that a possible split among members arising from a close fight for the post could be avoided.

Dr Mahathir said as the Umno presidency was not being challenged as yet, this allowed him to see to it that Umno remain united even after the party polls. -- more

AH RN

▼06/09/14-36MST

U PR 06-09 00149 KGB43

aae

Mahathir-Umno 2 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir said the Umno headquarters had received reports that except for a few untoward incidents, branch and divisional youth and wanita wing delegates' meetings went on smoothly.

Umno divisions will hold their delegates' meetings from Thursday until the end of the month.

He said the incidents happened because candidates' supporters hurled accusations at their opponents.

"Such conduct can affect Umno's image. I therefore advise them not to resort to dirty tactics but carry out clean and democratic campaigning," he said.

Campaigning should not create tension and results of a democratically conducted contest should be accepted since there would always be winners and losers, he said.

Dr Mahathir dismissed claims that Umno leaders, too preoccupied with campaigning for the coming party elections, had neglected their government duties.-- more

AH RN

▼06/09/15-04MST

CNS3892

U PK 06-09 00155 EG844

aae

Mahathir-Umno 3 Kuala Lumpur

He said Umno leaders have not been neglecting their government duties but as always, have put national matters such as inflation and economic growth close to their hearts.

"Umno is not preoccupied with this campaign that it has forgotten its responsibilities to the government," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the supreme council, which met for almost three hours today, also discussed poison-pen letters and derogatory caricatures which resurfaced on the eve of the party elections.

He said: "This is a contest within the party. If we write poison-pen letters, people outside the party will use the content to condemn the party and not just a few individuals."

Dr Mahathir said the entire supreme council was saddened by this phenomenon and have advised members to stop writing and distributing poison-pen letters and such caricatures. -- more

AH RN

▼06/09/15-29MSU

CNS3911

U PK 06-09 00162 EG845

aae

Mahathir-Umno 4 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir was also asked on allegations of "outsiders" interfering in Malaysia's internal politics and economic affairs.

He said the government could not stop "outsiders" from interfering in domestic politics and economy as they would still continue doing so even if it tried stopping them.

However, he said, as far as possible the government would not want "outsiders" to meddle with the country's internal matters.

"I don't care whether they are from within or outside the country because that's not important. Just mind your own business," he said.

He said "outsiders" should not interfere in Umno elections which were the party's own affairs.

Last Saturday the Deputy Prime Minister and Umno deputy president Ghafar Baba spoke of "outsiders" interfering in the country's politics and economy.

Ghafar had expressed concern that unless checked, such interference could colonise Malaysia's economy.-- Bernama

AH RN

▼06/09/15-48MSU