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Sakaran-Umno

SABAH UMNO WANTS MAHATHIR AS CHAIRMAN

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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 3 (Bernama) -- Sabah Umno wants Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to take over as chairman of the State Umno Liaison Committee from Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba who resigned from the post recently.

Land and Cooperative Development Minister Tan Sri Sakaran Dandai said today the matter had been conveyed to Dr Mahathir in a memorandum handed over by 19 Umno division heads in Sabah at a meeting with the prime minister on Sept 21.

"Sabah Umno has proposed the Prime Minister himself because he is able to unite all quarters, attend to developmental problems and strengthen the party to face possible elections soon," he said.

Sakaran, who is head of the Semporna division, spoke to reporters when approached after he had launched the ministry's family day, here.

He said that as party president, Dr Mahathir had an understanding of all Umno divisions and was therefore accepted by all quarters at the state level. -- more

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He said heads of Umno divisions in Sabah would strive to have a meeting with Dr Mahathir on his return from abroad. The prime minister is attending the United Nations' general assembly in New York.

Asked about Umno Youth vice-head Senator Nazri Tan Sri Aziz's suggestion yesterday that a new face be picked to head the Sabah Umno, Sakaran said it was up to the party leadership to decide on that.

He said all quarters could give their views but the problems in Sabah had to be resolved by far-sighted leaders who were able to strengthen the position of Umno and the Barisan Nasional.

"It is hoped that in this way, the BN will be able to administer Sabah soon," he said, adding that it would be left to Dr Mahathir to determine when Sabah Umno leaders themselves could head the state liaison committee.

On Ghafar's resignation from the post, Sakaran said Sabah Umno respected the services of the Deputy Prime Minister in having paved the way for Umno's presence in Sabah. -- more

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He added however that when it came to party matters, unity and the wishes of the majority had to be taken into account and respected.

In this connection, he said, new leaders had to be given the chance to show their potential to develop the country.

"We are convinced that the second echelon leaders of today are ready and capable of accepting the fast changes and challenges," he said. --

Bernama

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