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Mohamed-Campaign

BAN ON CAMPAIGNS MAY BE INCLUDED IN UMNO CONSTITUTION

KUALA LUMPUR, July 7 (Bernama) -- The Umno supreme council's decision to ban all forms of campaigning and to accept nominations en bloc for the October party elections may be adopted as part of the party constitution, Umno secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said today.

He said the Ad Hoc Committee to review the party constitution headed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad might consider incorporating the decision in the party constitution.

The decision was agreed upon unanimously by members of the supreme council, the party's highest decision-making body, he told reporters after attending the Information Ministry's family day at Taman Tasik Titiwangsa, here.

Mohamed, who is Information Minister, said the decision was the best way to curb excessive campaigning, money politics, threats and slandering which could split Umno.

He said the decision would be relief to aspirants who had offered themselves for various party posts as they need not worry about obtaining nominations from the divisions.

In a drastic move to curb excessive politicking, the supreme council decided yesterday that there would be no campaigning for the party elections in October.

It also called on the 165 divisions to nominate all those who had registered instead of choosing certain candidates for respective posts only.

Mohamed refuted claims that the decision would only benefit the incumbents and those holding positions in government.

"All those who had registered will now have equal chances and the new system gives the right to delegates to elect the deserving candidates," he said.

On the possibility of candidates resorting to new approaches and tactics to fish for votes following the ban on campaigning, he said, "action will be taken against those defying the supreme council's decision."

On the possibility of more candidates registering for party posts in the next party elections as they would be automatically listed as candidates under the new system, he said Umno members knew their position and chances before offering themselves for party posts. -- BERNAMA

SJA TS JK