

04 AUG 1996

Beaufort-Meeting

BEAUFORT UMNO RECONVENES DELEGATES MEETING

BEAUFORT, Aug 4 (Bernama) -- The Beaufort Umno delegates meeting which was adjourned following a disturbance during its last meeting on July 27, was reconvened today under tight security.

Observers were not invited to attend the meeting to facilitate security control and only delegates and invited guests were allowed into the Dewan Pak Musa, the venue of the meeting.

At today's meeting, Pengiran Ali Pengiran Salam, who protested because his name was not in the list of candidates to be chosen as delegates at the July 27 meeting, lost in the election when he received only 227 votes.

Another candidate, Hussein Aman was also defeated in the election of 10 delegates to the Umno general assembly in October.

The 10 delegates elected were Datuk Karim Bujang, Datuk Nurnikman Abdullah, Azizah Mohd Dun, Okal Hj Abdul, Isnin Aliasni, Yusof Said, Awang Banani, Zahari Zinin, Husni Nuar Abdullah and Datuk John Ghani -- all securing more than 400 votes from the 651 delegates who attended the meeting.

The meeting on July 27 had to be adjourned shortly after the Sabah Umno Liaison Committee representative Sapawi Ahmad had delivered his opening speech when a brawl broke out involving at least 30 delegates and observers.

The brawl was said to have started after Pengiran Ali protested that his name was not included in the list of 10 delegates to be chosen.

In the ensuing fight, three delegates were injured -- one of them had to be rushed to the Sabah Medical Centre in Kota Kinabalu for immediate treatment.

Beaufort Umno division head, Datuk Lajim Ukin, when approached by reporters said that he was happy with the meeting today which, according to him, went smoothly.

"The delegates appeared to have adhered to the regulations stipulated and I hope Umno members in the division will unite and discard whatever feelings of dissatisfaction they had and accept the decision of the majority," he said.

On the police report regarding the brawl, Lajim said he was made to understand the police were still investigating the case and he was confident that it would be completed immediately.

On the reduction in the number of delegates from 697 last week to 651 today, Lajim said it did not affect the meeting.

"We have not ascertained which branches did not send their representatives. It is highly possible that those which did not send their representatives could not be contacted or were confused about the date and venue of the meeting," he said.

The meeting passed a resolution to congratulate Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for successfully leading Umno for the past 15 years.

The meeting also endorsed the nominations of candidates for the posts of Umno permanent chairman, deputy permanent chairman, president, deputy president, vice presidents and Supreme Council ordinary members. -- BERNAMA

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