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Umno-Campaign

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES AND GREETING CARDS SENT TO DELEGATES

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 5 (Bernama) -- A deputy minister who is contesting for a post in the Umno supreme council is alleged to have written to a party member congratulating him for being chosen as a delegate to the Umno general assembly in October.

The deputy minister, from a state in the north of Peninsular Malaysia, is said to have stated the address of his office in Pusat Bandar Damansara in the letter with a special letterhead incorporating the Umno flag and symbol.

"Come over to my office if you happen to be in KL..." the deputy minister has allegedly written to the delegate, who requested anonymity.

He is also said to have heaped praises on the delegate and expressed the hope that "our friendship will endure" to enable them to pursue the struggles of the party.

The delegate claimed that he did not even know the deputy minister personally.

Another candidate in the party election, a menteri besar, is also said to have sent congratulatory messages to delegates to the general assembly.

He is alleged to have used the official letterhead of the menteri besar's office.

Several candidates who are holding posts in the government are also alleged to have sent letters or greeting cards to the delegates. Some have even taken advantage of the free postal services using the "Urusan Seri Paduka Baginda" stamp on envelopes and cards.

Some candidates were also said to have taken advantage of Umno's 50th anniversary celebrations and the 39th National Day celebrations by sending out greeting cards with their photographs printed on them.

A corporate figure who has interests in a tabloid, has sent greeting cards to delegates in conjunction with Umno's 50th anniversary celebrations and on being chosen as delegates to the general assembly.

Call cards with the photographs of candidates and the list of their past and present posts were also allegedly sent to the delegates.

Among the candidates said to have distributed such call cards were several state executive councillors, Cabinet ministers, deputy ministers, parliamentary secretaries and corporate figures.

Two menteris besar contesting for top posts in the party were also said to have "bought" several tables at a dinner organised by the Persatuan Anak-Anak Melayu Pulau Pinang for members in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor at a hotel here early this week.

The function was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who is Umno deputy president, Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Badawi and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Ibrahim Saad.

The tables for 10 people were bought at RM1,000, RM3,000 and RM5,000 each. They were said to have been occupied by delegates and supporters of both candidates who were alleged to have launched a campaign on behalf of both candidates.

Besides sending letters and greeting cards, several candidates were also said to have attended functions at houses of branch heads or delegates to the general assembly.

Most of the functions were allegedly sponsored by the figures or their "campaign managers."

These appeared to be contrary to the reminder by Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Anwar, as chairman of the Umno disciplinary committee.

Dr Mahathir has even indicated that candidates should withdraw their candidacy if they have violated the conditions for the party election. --  
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