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Mahathir-Exco

KELANTAN S46 EXCO MEMBERS NOT REQUIRED TO RESIGN

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 2 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the four Kelantan exco members from Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46) are not required to relinquish their posts although they will soon join Umno.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said that Umno would not advise them to relinquish their posts as their appointments were made by the Sultan of Kelantan.

"I do not see why they should resign. They are in the exco because they were appointed by the Sultan," he told reporters after witnessing the signing of an engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract for the RM13.6 billion Bakun hydroelectric project here.

On Sunday, S46 will hold an extraordinary general meeting to enable the party to be dissolved and the members return to Umno en bloc.

Following the dissolution, a question arose over the position of the Kelantan S46 exco members as they will no longer be part of party ruling the state.

Dr Mahathir said that the Sultan of Kelantan had the right to ask the exco members to resign as their appointments were made by him.

However, he said that Umno would assist the exco members should they face problems.

"We will regard them as any other Umno members. If there are problems, we will overcome them," he said.

On the treatment to be given to S46 members after the dissolution of the party and their membership in Umno, the Prime Minister said that Umno would be sincere in accepting them.

"I will meet Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah (S46 president) at the assembly (on Malay unity) in Kelantan tomorrow," he said. -- BERNAMA

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