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Umno-MT

MUHYIDDIN: BAN ON CAMPAIGNING DOES NOT WEAKEN DEMOCRACY

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 4 (Bernama) -- Umno vice president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Mohd. Yassin said today the decision of the Umno Supreme Council (MT) yesterday to expel members who indulge in extortion or campaigning for the October party elections should be a welcome move.

The decision was based on political rationale and should not be construed as a move to curb democracy in Umno, he said.

"This drastic decision was merely to ensure Umno's stability besides curbing whatever unhealthy practices such as money politics, extortion and slander," he told reporters after officiating the Programme on Appreciation of Fine Values in the Development of the Young Generation, here.

Muhyiddin, who is also Youth and Sports Minister, said the MT's decision was to restore a healthy political pattern and election process in Umno.

He said he did not feel that the decision of the MT would obstruct political activities in Umno because party members still had the right to decide on the party leadership in the October elections.

He said whatever decision taken by the MT was done purely in the interest of the party and members.

Dr Mahathir, after chairing the monthly MT meeting yesterday said the MT agreed that all activities which could be construed as campaigning would be postponed until after the general assembly.

Among the activities planned in conjunction with the Umno 50th anniversary celebrations which had to be postponed included the state Umno conventions, Umno veteran awards, the launchings of Rukun Pemuda and the Umno Wanita book. -- BERNAMA

SJA AO