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Mohamed-Umno

DON'T USE UMNO LEADERS' NAMES, CONTESTANTS TOLD

JOHOR BAHRU, July 21 (Bernama) -- Umno secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat today reminded members contesting in party elections in October not to use the names of the party president and deputy president to fish for votes.

The contestants should not seek to gain influence by doing that because Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim have adopted a neutral stance in the elections, he said.

The two party leaders have informed him of their neutral stand, Mohamed told reporters after opening the party's Pulai division delegates meeting here.

"They will not intervene or try to influence members on who to choose especially for key posts like vice-president, Youth leader and Wanita leader," he said.

Mohamed said the decision by Dr Mahathir and Anwar to be neutral was most appropriate considering that they would remain as the party's president and deputy president until 1999.

Umno has left it entirely to the members to decide who to choose as vice-presidents because it was an hotly discussed issue and also to avoid any disintegration, he said.

On advertisements in newspapers placed by members, Mohamed said the party Supreme Council had voiced its disapproval of the practice, adding that campaigning for party posts had become similar to cigarette advertisements.

He said there was no need to resort to such practice as good and capable leaders would not need to employ confusing methods.

"The kampung people already know who's good and who's not. The members too have decided on who abuses power, indulges in money politics and bad-mouths others," he said.

Mohamed said Umno headquarters was happy with the conduct of delegates meetings so far which had been peaceful.

He said the Supreme Council had appointed an election committee under the chairmanship of Tan Sri Mustapha Jabar to conduct the October elections, and expressed the hope that it would hold a meeting early next month to discuss election procedures.

Mohamed said the list of names of contestants proposed for acceptance at divisional meetings would be submitted to the committee.

The committee will then send official letters to the contestant who must reply to indicate whether they agree to stay on as contestants or not.

"If there's anyone who wished to pull out, he can do so after the official offer letter to contest is issued by the headquarters in September," he added. -- BERNAMA

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