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Ramli-campaign

RAMLI LAUDS SHORTER CAMPAIGN PERIOD FOR UMNO ELECTION

IPOH, April 7 (Bernama) -- The Umno Supreme Council's decision to limit the campaigning period for aspiring candidates for party posts in the Umno election in October is aimed at maintaining party stability, Perak Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib said today.

Ramli, who is vying for one of the three vice-president's posts, said all Supreme Council members reached an understanding on the campaign period in yesterday's meeting giving priority to the interests and wellbeing of Umno.

"The decision was also to prevent candidates from resorting to overzealous actions to garner support for themselves," he told reporters after being interviewed in the "Selamat Pagi Malaysia" programme over RTM at his official residence, here.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who chaired yesterday's Supreme Council meeting, said Umno members had been told to immediately stop campaigning for party elections until July in a move to curb excessive politicking.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, also said members who wished to contest for posts in the October polls must personally register with the party headquarters within a month from tomorrow.

Ramli said the three-month campaign period would not jeopardise chances of candidates meeting the delegates and in fact, the move could check irregularities while campaigning.

In SEREMBAN, Umno Vice-President Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib said the council's decision to slash the campaign period was a wise move as a longer time could cause a split in Umno.

The decision was the best and appropriate at the present time, said Muhammad, who is defending his vice-president's post.

"We have a bigger agenda to make Malaysia a developed nation and hence, we should focus our attention towards achieving the objective. If a longer campaign period is allowed, a lot of time will be wasted and could cause a split in Umno," he told reporters after opening the annual general meeting of the Negeri Sembilan branch of the National Silat Federation of Malaysia.

The decision would enable Umno leaders to channel their efforts towards developing the country to greater heights, said Muhammad, who is Selangor Menteri Besar.

On the requirement for candidates to register with Umno headquarters, he said it was a good move as the delegates would know who the contestants were and what posts they were vying for to enable them to make their own analysis.

This would enable the delegates to decide on their choice of candidates easily, he added. -- Bernama

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