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Mahathir-S46

S46 MUST BE DISSOLVED FIRST, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, July 6 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46) must be dissolved first before its members join Umno to avoid the party being manipulated by others for political interest.

"We feel it's better that S46 be dissolved ... Datuk Asri (Muda, former PAS president who later formed Hamim) for example could not dissolve Hamim because it was manipulated by certain individuals for their own interest.

"We understand there are attempts by those outside S46 to keep intact the Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah (APU)," said Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, after chairing the monthly meeting of the Umno Supreme Council at party's headquarters here today.

He said PAS wanted S46 to continue to exist and APU be maintained.

"We are also aware of efforts by PAS to woo S46 members to join the party and those with vested interest seem to be wanting to join PAS so that their interest is not jeopardised," he said.

As such, he said not all S46 members would be joining Umno. "To us, it's not a problem. We'll accept them," he added.

Dr Mahathir said S46 members' entry into Umno would be like that of any others and Umno would accept them for the sake of Malay unity.

"They will have the same right like other Umno members, to contest in posts provided they get the support of the members.

"This doesn't mean that they will be a faction, a S46 faction ... in Umno there is no faction and we don't want any whether it is based on individual or party," he said.

On the cooperation between Umno and S46 in Kelantan, Dr Mahathir said the question did not arise.

"If S46 wants to remain as it is but supports Umno's candidates ... we accept its support but we will not support its candidates," he said. --

BERNAMA

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