

09 JUL 1996

Umno-meeting

SUPREME COUNCIL DECISION FACILITATES UMNO MEETINGS

KUALA LUMPUR, July 9 (Bernama) -- From five-star hotels to community halls, the 165 Umno divisions nationwide will hold their respective delegates meeting beginning Friday in line with the ban by the Supreme Council on campaigning for the party leadership election in October.

The Supreme Council, which met last Saturday, also decided that the divisions endorse en bloc the list of candidates vying for Supreme Council posts. The last day for divisional delegates meeting is July 31.

Bagan Datok member of parliament Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said the move to disallow divisions to submit nominations other than the list of candidates registered with the party headquarters would curb elements of vote-buying.

"When there is no nomination, the use of money to secure such nomination will not arise and this will avoid the practice of competing for the highest number of nominations," he told Bernama.

The head of the Batu Umno division here, Datuk Azman Atar Othman said the Supreme Council decision was for the good of the party.

"Besides curbing money politics, the move will eliminate wastage of funds on numerous dinners by candidates ... in the Federal Territory, RM4,000 to RM5,000 will not be sufficient to pay for one dinner," he added.

The Batu division is among the earliest to hold the delegates meeting which will be held at the Hotel Asia here on July 14, besides the Seputeh division which chose the newly opened Hotel Renaissance as the venue for the meeting and the Bandar Tun Razak division which will have its meeting at the Kompleks Sukan Bandar Tun Razak, also on the same day.

The Kepong, Lembah Pantai, Wangsa Maju, Segambut, Cheras and Bukit Bintang divisions will meet on July 21 while the Titiwangsa division will have the meeting on July 28.

Each division will choose 10 delegates excluding the division head which is automatically a delegate.

The Kubang Pasu division, headed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, is scheduled to have its delegates meeting on July 28 at the Dewan Jitra while the Permatang Pauh division, headed by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, will have its delegates meeting on July 21. -- BERNAMA

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